

Eyes On Victory

MESSAGE FROM THE EVANGELISM

MINISTRY MODERATOR

DONOVAN J. DAVIS

The New Genesis



In the Book of Revelations, the Scriptures tell of the coming of a new heaven and a new earth. Jesus tells us through the prophet John that not only is He coming soon, but that his reward is with him. Christians all over the world are watching intently and waiting for the ushering in of a new day. Although we don't know the specific day, the signs of the times fully align with the events that Jesus told his disciples would occur before his return. Butler Memorial Presbyterian church has adapted well during the pandemic that left us without the opportunity to convene in our sanctuary. We were forced to come up with creative measures by which we could communicate with one another and still perpetuate the Good News of the Gospel. Now, Butler, we are on the precipice of something fresh. Our new pastor, Reverend Stephen Robertson, has been ordained and is set to arrive in his position here in Savannah in July. The time we have spent away from one another has given us a great deal of time to reflect and redefine what we want from God. With our new pastor being only in his early thirties, we can expect innovation and creativity that Butler has not seen in a very long time. It will be our job to throw our full support behind his initiatives as well as make his family feel welcome in the hostess city. All throughout our existence, Presbyterians have been labeled as "The Frozen Chosen." The fact that we are chosen is something to be thankful for. However, the idea that we are coldly conservative in our manner of worship must change. Christ described the Holy Spirit as both a fire to ignite a passion for discipleship and an advocate that would teach us and bring to remembrance all things that Jesus taught us in his absence. John the Baptist explained that though he was powerful in the Spirit, one was coming after him who would baptize with fire instead of water and whose sandal straps he was not worthy to untie. This man, the Christ, who is our Savior, has his eye on Butler and we have our eyes on "Victory."

Approaches to Evangelism (Part III)

Elder Maxine Jackson, Co-Moderator Evangelism Ministry

And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.' **Luke 14:23** Each newsletter we have been highlighting different approaches to Christianity via the practice of evangelism. **Lifestyle evangelism** is another approach which is characterized by an individual demonstrating their faith by their actions in the hope that people around them will be impressed with how God affects that person's life, and become a Christian. According to *The Encyclopedia of Protestantism* printed in 2004, approximately 100 million people use this approach to evangelism. Brian Brooks writes, "To evangelize is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and others to bring a searching person one step closer to God."



In This Issue

- Welcome to our New Pastor
- Further Guidelines for Health and Safety During In-Person Church
- The Body Politic
- Gratitude for Clerk of Session
- June Joint Sunday School
- Juneteenth 2022
- Focus on Youth
- Ministry and Circle News
- Announcement
- Father's Day Message
- Graduation Sunday
- Birthdays and Anniversaries

We Welcome a New Pastor

Submitted by Mrs. Mary Shank



It's official!! The moderator of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), Elder Johnye Gillans, has made the much-anticipated announcement. Reverend Stephen Robertson has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church. This comes as a result of months of work on the part of the PNC, a committed, prayerful, resourceful and dedicated group who spent hours in Bible study, in in-person committee meetings, on Zoom interviews, on conference calls and on individual phone calls.

Rev. Robertson was born on August 1, 1990, in Inglewood, California and was the last of four siblings. At age sixteen, he joined Angeles Mesa Presbyterian Church and became an active member, singing in the youth choir, attending Vacation Bible School, and leading worship services as liturgist. He was so impressive that his pastor, in a conference with him, expressed that Stephen was special and that HE had a "calling on your life". Stephen listened and it was at that time his journey in ministry began.



He completed a Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies from California State University and received his Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary. He served as an Elder of Youth Ministry on Angeles Mesa's Session (2013-2016). He served as Youth Pastor at Lincoln Memorial Congregational Church and as Children, Youth and Family Director at Lutheran Church in the Foothills for five years. From June 2021, until May of this year, he has served as Apprentice Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills, California, leading many morning worship services. His sermons are on his Ministry Life Website. His emphasis during his apprenticeship was on congregational care, mission, preaching and Bible study. His work with people with developmental disabilities has been one of his most rewarding experiences.

On Sunday, May 15, 2022, he was ordained as a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church, USA during a memorable and moving ordination service held at the First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills.



Rev. Robertson says that the best and most rewarding part of his story is getting married to the former Shantell Darby in 2017, who is, also, committed to serving Christ. Mrs. Robertson is a third -grade teacher at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Los Angeles, CA.

His goal is to take all that he has learned and experienced into pastoral ministry to help him love, care for and cherish the congregation he serves. Rev. Robertson received offers from other congregations, but he and his wife chose Butler and for that we are truly grateful and blessed. Thanks be to God for the journey and for the outcome!

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.

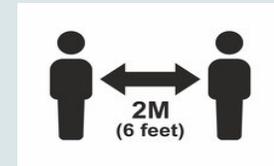
The Return to In-Person Worship Plan Committee, the Session, and other ministry and committee leaders, are excited now that Butler Memorial Presbyterian congregants have returned to In-Person Worship Service. Our first service was on **Sunday, June 5, 2022**. The church will continue practicing CDC, 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 are encouraged to 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** – For the month of June, Sunday School Classes will be in conjunction with First Presbyterian Church. Butler will host on the first and third Sundays. (Further info is provided on pg. 5)
- **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.

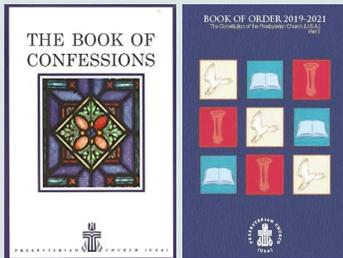
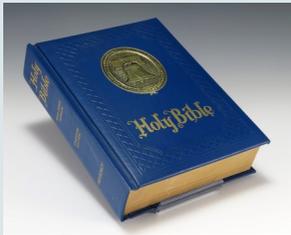


If help is needed to use this entrance because of a worshiper’s physical condition, please inform an Usher and it will be provided.

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



Return to Worship information submitted by Sheila Zeigler



**The Body Politic
And
Courageous Christian Captain
Submitted by:
Elder Eudora Allen**

Presbyterianism - What is it? To know our polity is to love it! It is a very simple system. It assumes that Christians meeting in representative bodies can seek and know the will of God, and that through these bodies, the whole church can be governed in ways that are just, decent and orderly. Our church is a part of a denomination that is very similar to the Constitution of the United States of America. We have The Synod, the General Assembly and the Presbytery. Each of these entities is distinct and the polity refers to RULES.

How we govern ourselves—As elders we are on the same footing and decisions are made by majority vote of the whole body. Moderators and clerks have no individual authority outside the whole body. Most decisions in our church are made by officers organized into groups called governing bodies.

Such is the case of our present Visionary Group. Meeting on April 27th in the Social Hall of the church the nine Ministries were divided into three groups which had similar functions. These groups were: 1 OPERATIONS VISION GROUP – Stewardship, Fiscal, Administration and Building & Grounds ministries. 2. SPIRITUAL GROWTH and EDUCATION -Christian Growth and Nurture Worship, Music and Spiritual Life, and Evangelism ministries and 3. SERVICE VISION GROUP- Community Mission ,Fellowship and Cultural Affairs ministries. These three groups, involving deacons and lay members of the church are to develop short term goals to prepare for the work of the Session. It was so gratifying to see and hear the Social Hall filled with the cheerful chatter of its members, doing the will of God for Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church. All in all, there were twenty- six members present and the Moderator who previously had asked the question - Why are we here? The responses were overwhelming as well as challenging and no doubt, there will be prayerful and fruitful solutions for Butler to become more substantial and viable in our community; our family of God!

“Courageous Christian Captain”

Perhaps many of us are simply unaware of a ship that has no person in charge of its ordinary passage along life’s waterways. Perhaps there are those who simply refuse to believe that a ship needs someone who is capable of steerage and keeping it upright during the course of its docking as well as its journeys. Well, let me just relay to you the message that Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church has among its many passengers an astute, observant, inquisitive, member who has her hands on the throttle of every inch of its moorings, financial and otherwise. The ability to organize ministries, provide passengers an avenue for intra communication, meet regularly as “Good Presbyterians” do and keep everything to the adage of decency and order is an awesome task! Imagine all of this responsibility for a period of two years during the pandemic and before.

I, along with my fellow elders and deacons would like to simply say, “Thank You,” to Elder Johnye Paul Gillans for extending herself far beyond her actual duties of serving as the Moderator of Clerk of Session and committing herself to the overall function of the Butler Memorial Presbyterian ship.

As we prepare to welcome a new pastor, we must acknowledge our (CCC), Courageous Christian Captain, Elder Johnye Paul Gillans, whose hands kept our ship on a steady course and going full throttle. WE LOVR YOU J.P.!

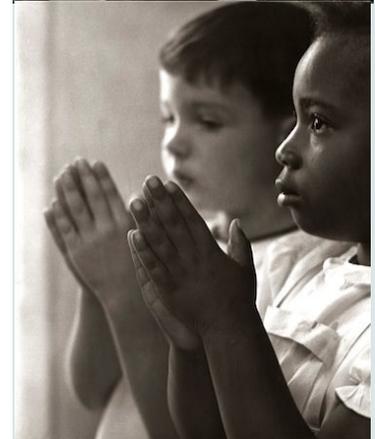
Joint Sunday School with First Presbyterian Church and Juneteenth 2022

Submitted by: Donovan J. Davis

Every June, Butler Memorial Presbyterian and First Presbyterian Churches convene for joint Sunday School services from 9:30–10:30 a.m. Each year, all four weekends are centered around the presentations of one specific theme. This year's focus was the 8 Habits of Evangelism. This summer, the congregants will meet at Butler for the first and third Sundays and at First Presbyterian for the second and fourth Sundays. The 8 habits that are to be discussed this year Radical Welcome, Worship, Sacraments, Prayer, Justice, Teaching, Fellowship and Generosity. As Christians, it is important that we realize that each of these habits carries with it the admonition that one must use his or her better judgment to discern how to react to those who may not share your mindset and belief. The world can be a cold and calculating place. In Matthew 10:16, Jesus says to his disciples: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves." The opportunity for Butler and First Presbyterian to get together and bounce ideas off of one another is a very productive start to changing the climate in this world. In the last month, we have seen both adults and children massacred in a way that screams to God: "We need you now more than ever." The conversations are beginning to heat up now about concerns that had been swept under the rug for years past. People of all races and ages are beginning to say that enough is enough. However, I can't help but wonder if God is watching and waiting for us to call to Him for our aid. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will hear their land. This age that we are living in can be turned around but it is going to take a collective effort from people of all faiths. With our two churches getting together to share the narrative of Christ, we are at the beginning stages of having conversations that will bring the peace and love to this world that Jesus lived and died for.

"Juneteenth 2022"

The word Juneteenth is a blend of the words June and nineteenth. Originating in Galveston Texas, it commemorates the emancipation of the last enslaved African-Americans. Its history is quite interesting. President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, thereby freeing the enslaved people in Texas and all other Southern secessionist states of the Confederacy except for parts of states not in rebellion. However, enforcement of the proclamation relied upon the advance of Union troops to spread the message. Information during this time traveled slowly, and because Texas was the most remote state of the former Confederacy, they did not learn that they had been freed until June 19th of 1865, more than two years after the other states. The first celebration of this holiday was in 1866, but even many African-Americans outside of Texas had never understood or heard of the importance of this date until recent years. For example, the day was not recognized as a federal holiday until June 17th of last year, when newly elected President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. For slaves in Texas, it was on June 19th, 1865 when Union Army general Gordon Granger announced General Order No. 3 proclaiming freedom for the slaves in that state, which was the last state of the Confederacy with institutional slavery. This year, Juneteenth coincides with Father's Day, which for Christians is an amazing combination.



Youth Ministry

Deacon Laquisha Cokley-Milton



Spotlight #1: Corrine Johnson: This was my first year at Garrison School of the Arts. School was hard, but I made a lot of new friends and got to meet friends that I made during online school. Over the summer, I am going to Summer Embrace at my school to get ready for 5th grade. I am planning on going to a junior entrepreneur camp and a cooking camp at St. Joseph hospital in July. My mom will take me to do fun activities like the beach and shopping. Next year my goals are to try much harder in my classes, get better at my trumpet, and make friends with students that are new to Garrison.



Spotlight #2: Jasmyn Vaughn: I attend Garrison School of the Arts and I completed the 2nd grade. I received an sward for excellent conduct for the year and highest improvement score for reading on I-ready. This summer I am going to the pool and I will be training for gymnastics competition for this upcoming season. In third grade, I hope to make the honor roll for the whole year!



Spotlight #3: Quentin Milton: I started 6th grade this school year at Oglethorpe Charter School. It was different from elementary school and it was hard at first but I was able to adjust. I made new friends and I liked my new teachers. This summer, I am playing basketball for a travel AAU team called the Savannah Greyhounds. So far, we have traveled to Atlanta, GA, Orlando, FL, and Greenville, SC. We have won three championships so far. In 7th grade, I want to work harder and do better with my school work and I will continue training and working out because I want to try out for my school's basketball team.

Heavenly Father, We are blessed to have youth who are doing positive things academically, athletically, and socially. Keep our youth covered and encouraged. Order their steps. Guide our children in every move they make. We pray they will know your provision and protection. Amen.

Fellowship and Cultural Affairs Ministry

Elder Roberta Pringle



The Fellowship and Cultural Affairs Ministry had a very enjoyable outdoor activity on Saturday, May 21, 2022. Our moderator, Elder Roberta Pringle had a wonderful idea to reach out to the community. The whole idea was to make the community aware of the reopening of our church. Not only did we give away hot dogs, chips, and drinks to those who came, we also presented them with a flyer as an invitation to worship with us on June 5, 2022. There were a lot of people that stopped by to get refreshments. But the high point of the day involved a young man and his son. He asked for assistance. Not only did we help him, but he and his son also enjoyed some refreshments.

Kudos to the following members: Dr. Eunice Washington, Malachi Vaughn, Jasmyn Vaughn, Kandyce Vaughn, Elder Carl Moffitt, Elder Carlethia Eady, Jonathan Eady, Alannah Harris and Jaiden Eady, and the willing workers of the Fellowship and Cultural Affairs Ministry. It was a successful day!

**A.S. Leake Circle
Deacon Janice Purvis**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him. So that you may overflow with Hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13**

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. **2 Thessalonians 3:16**
Let us continue to worship and serve God in our lives..

**Thank You Butler
Elder Eudora Allen**

Elder Eudora M. Allen & Deacon Levi Moore take this opportunity to thank the Butler Family & its circle of friends for all of their prayers, expressions of love & gratitude shown during the short illness and death of their youngest sister, Girther Moore Grant. Girther grew up in Butler under the leadership of Rev. Patterson and took part in all youth activities and singing in the JR. CHOIR. She was married in our sanctuary and remained a faithful member until moving to Atlanta. Our hearts are filled with sincere appreciation & LOVE!

Christian Growth & Nurture

Elder Carlethia Eady

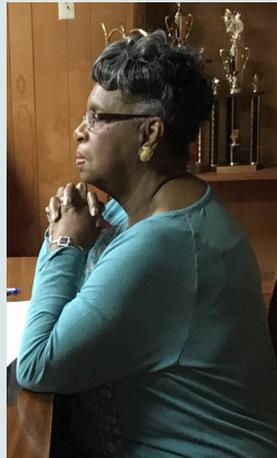
The Christian Growth and Nurture Ministry is diligently working to keep our members engaged in activities during the year. Vacation Bible School for 2022 is scheduled to begin on June 13th and will meet daily from 6:30-8:00 PM. The theme for this year is POP: Power of Prayer. Youth and adults are invited to attend. Please inform Mrs. Eady of your intentions to attend by June 8th, so that supplies may be distributed. Activities scheduled for this year's VBS should be intriguing to all.

This ministry oversees the youth group(s), Sunday school, the men's and women's organizations, camp registrations and training for the church, among other things. This is done with the great assistance from many individuals who have volunteered their times and talents to these ventures. You will read articles from many of the groups associated with Christian Growth. So, when you see the leaders of these organizations, please give them your support and thanks.

Announcement

Reverend Robertson will be starting a prayer line on our conference line on Monday June 6, 2022.

The prayer line will be Monday through Friday at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM EST. Members can join either one or both times. This will mainly focus on prayer request, concerns and reports of praise. It's an opportunity to come together in prayer. The call-in number is (725) 735-9892.





THE PICKENS CIRCLE MOVES TO SATISFY NEEDS FOR THE EOA TOM AUSTIN HOUSE

The Pickens Circle members of Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church are still on the move by staying involved with various community projects, like Family Promise, Alzheimer’s Association, Inner City Night Shelter, Salvation Army, and last but not least, The EOA Tom D. Austin House (Austin House), here in Savannah. Through the years, we have adhered to the wishes and needs of this much needed facility for our neighbors. To remain steadfast in our commitment to them, we have consistently made contributions to satisfy many of their needs by reaching out to them for suggestions.



Please allow me to share a few details taken from a correspondence that the Pickens Circle received in April 2022 from Kamashia Nelson, (Case Manager).



She writes: “We offer permanent supportive housing for families and children. The families that we help house come from a domestic violence, a homeless, or substance abuse situation. Our goal is to assist these families with stable shelter, therapy, and helping them to rehabilitate themselves into independency. We have 12 units, each with 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living area and bathroom. Most families that enter our facility come in with a few things to nothing at all. I am reaching out to you to see if your church would like to adopt a unit, to help these families get off on a good start. In our building right now, we have 7 families occupying units. If your church would like to make any donations, we would greatly appreciate it. I have attached a list of things that would assist the families with getting started.”



I would like to add that the list we received is quite lengthy, however, these categories will give you a bird’s view of what is being donated through the Pickens Circle:

Austin House Unit Inventory Check: Items for the Kitchens, Bathrooms, Bedrooms, and Miscellaneous, are needed. And so, we proudly move to satisfy our obligations by donating generously, three quarters out of the year.

- Maxine E. Jackson,
- Special Projects, Co-chair
- Jessie C. DeLoach, Co-chair
- Eudora Allen, Moderator

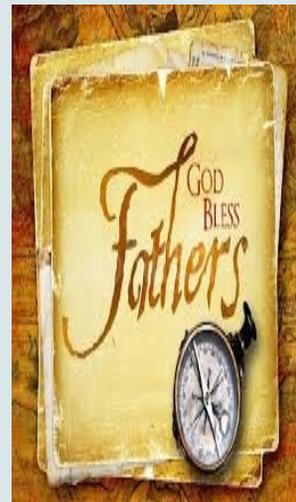


Father's Day (June 19th) A Father's Day Message

It is so very difficult to describe the importance of a father in the life or lives of their children. As an African-American male, I was blessed to have both a father and an older male sibling to display for me what it means to be a man in today's society. The influence of a father is so critical that it could be the difference between the life and death of a child who might in his absence make wrong decisions due to lack of guidance. How many times do we enter churches and see where the women of the church are the sole reason that the church still stands? How many single mothers are raising children without that much needed support of not just a husband, but a provider and a father figure for herself when she is uncertain how to handle things that only a man should be asked to do. This Father's Day, I think it highly necessary to say thank you to the men who stepped up to take care of their responsibilities, serving in so many roles: dad, husband, stepfather, grandfather, uncle, coach, mentor, and friend. As much as ladies might not know it, a man who is doing what he is supposed to do in respect to his family, would love to hear a thank you from time to time. People often forget that men need to feel appreciated just as much as women do. A woman has a very difficult life in this world. Society thinks them to be subservient to men at times. Even in the Scriptures, from the very beginning of the Book, the woman is relegated to trouble. But I want you to look at that same Holy Book and examine the character of Adam in a different way. Eve was his life. She came from his flesh. Adam, as the first man, was told by God what would happen if he disobeyed just one command: to never eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. However, this story is the quintessential example of a man's love for his wife; an old Romeo and Juliet story you might say. By eating that fruit together, they were true to their vows. If we rise together, then we fall together. God would not have had a plan for the redemption of mankind, if he were unaware that the First Parents would make such a critical mistake. So, this Father's Day, as you remember your earthly fathers, remember God as well, who chose to die with those he created so that together we might all rise again.

A Sunday Dedicated to all Spring 2022 Graduates

Graduation Sunday will take place on June 26, 2022. Please contact Deacon LaQuisha Milton at laqucokl@gmail.com or the church at butlerpressavannah2@gmail.com with the following information if you have someone whom you would like to be recognized for bridging to the next grade level (Pre-K to Kindergarten, Kindergarten to 1st grade, 5th grade to 6th grade, and 8th grade to 9th grade), or graduating from high school, college, or graduate school: include the name, school attending/attended, grade level, and any special accolades and achievements received. The deadline for submissions is Sunday, June 19th.



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 at our beloved church.



603 WEST VICTORY
DRIVE
SAVANNAH,
GEORGIA
31405

Phone: (912)236-7747

Fax: (912) 233-2048

Website:

Butlerpresssavannah.com
www.facebook.com/ButlerMPC/
Email: butlerpresssavannah2@gmail.com

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.

Summer Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS

June 6 Mr. & Mrs. James Washington (Lois)
June 12 Mr. & Mrs. Levi Moore (Abverna)
June 24 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Singleton (Serdalia)

JUNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

June 04: Deidre Lovett; June 06: John Copeland
June 09: Corinne Johnson; June 09: Malachi Vaughn
June 14: Rosabel P. Dixon; June 18: Carrie B. Mincey
June 23: Jordan Everett; June 25: Brianna Reid,
June 25: John Eady Jr.; June 28: Elmore Patterson Jr.
June 29: Sharon Benjamin,; June 30 Joyce McLemore

JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS

July 5: Mr. & Mrs. John P. (Beverly) Copeland
July 22: Mr. & Mrs. Willie (Elaine) Lovett

JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

July 2: Marie Hall; July 8: Richard Green; July 10: Herman Allen;
July 13: Michael Wright; July 17: Johnye W. Gillans;
July 20: Shanisse Bynes; July 24: Jonathan Eady;
July 27: Christopher Cokley, Malenthia Eady and Donovan Gillans;
July 28: Sierra Bynes
July 31: Anna Stephens

AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS

August 25 Mr. & Mrs. John Eady (Carlethia)

AUGUST BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

August 1: Briana Mole, Laura Mole and Carl Moffitt
August 2: Bobbie Jones, Mary Shank and Eunice Washington
August 3: Jessie DeLoach
August 5: Clemmie Thomas and Donovan Davis
August 8: James Early
August 10: Dandy Taylor and Leona B. Williams
August 15: Jaiden Eady
August 20: Kandyce Vaughn
August 21: Michelle Magwood and Patricia Mincey
August 26: Shirley Spears
August 29: Maria McLemore and Michael McLemore