

JANUARY 2024  
RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER  
*GROWING AS A CHURCH WITH A REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE*

2024  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
2024



BLESSED  
EPIPHANY DAY

# january

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# SCRIPTURAL IMPACT

*The*

# EPIPHANY

Epiphany commemorates how God incarnate as Jesus Christ revealed His divinity to the Magi who visited young Jesus. "After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh" (Matt. 2:9-11 NIV).

# SCRIPTURAL IMPACT

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH *Hope, Faith, and Trust*

*What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!*

*What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!*

*O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,*

*All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*

Father God, in the name of Jesus, I come now to say thank you for all the many blessings you have given us. Thank you for your goodness and your mercy. Thank you for grace—for it is sufficient.

You promised us in your Word that when we call on you, you will answer. Then, you say that we are the people of the pasture and the sheep of your hand. We thank you. And we take that not for granted.

Lord, you have blessed us to see another year. And we give you honor and praises, for you are worthy.

Lord, we are living in trying times. All types of things are happening everywhere. Satan is trying to win a battle he has already lost, and he is using whomever he can to play his games.

From the White House, to the state house, to the court house; in our schools, in our homes; on the streets; using our children; shooting, killing, stealing; and the list goes

*Continued on next page.*



# SCRIPTURAL IMPACT

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH. CONTINUED

on and on. But we will not let it stop us because, we have faith and trust in you, Lord Jesus, and because you already told us that no weapon formed against us will prosper. So, we will keep our hope high, leaning and depending on you. We know that you are still in control. And you will set things in order and turn things around.

I pray for the sick and those in hospitals and nursing homes; I pray for caretakers, as well as for doctors. Lord, give them insight about what they need to do. Help them to be like angels. Give them love and patience as they care for our loved ones. I also pray for those going through bereavement. Give them the comfort they need.

I pray for our church family; help us to be who you would have us to be. Always have us do that which you want us to do, being led by the Holy Spirit. Change hearts, regulate minds, and help us to treat others as we are to be treated. Help us to show love, give love, and always have encouraging words to those we meet. Bless us with the things for which we stand in need.

Let us go into the new year with a different outlook on life—trusting, hoping, and depending on you, Lord Jesus. And Father God, we give you the highest praise and bless your Holy name.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

*The Rev. Lillian Reynolds*

# SCRIPTURAL IMPACT

## SCRIPTURAL PRESENTATION Life Span of Mankind

*Deacon Bland Wade*

*11.30.2023*

### ***Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 KJV***

**1** Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

**2** While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

**3** In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

### ***Key Takeaways***

*1 honor and enjoy your Creator while you're still young, Before the years take their toll and your vigor wanes, . . .*

*2 Before your vision dims and the world blurs and the winter years keep you close to the fire.*

*3 In old age, your body no longer serves you so well. Muscles slacken, grip weakens, joints stiffen. The shades are pulled down on the world.*

*Continued on next page.*

# SCRIPTURAL IMPACT

## ***Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 KJV***

**4** And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;

**5** Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

**6** Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

**7** Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

## ***Key Takeaways***

*4 You can't come and go at will. Things grind to a halt. The hum of the household fades away. You are wakened now by bird-song.*

*5 Hikes to the mountains are a thing of the past. Even a stroll down the road has its terrors. Your hair turns apple-blossom white, Adorning a fragile and impotent matchstick body. Yes, you're well on your way to eternal rest, While your friends make plans for your funeral.*

*6 Life, lovely while it lasts, is soon over. Life as we know it, precious and beautiful, ends.*

*7 The body is put back in the same ground it came from. The spirit returns to God, who first breathed it.*



# SCRIPTURAL IMPACT

## SCRIPTURAL DEVOTION

### "I Know Who I Am"

I am God's child. (**John 1:12**)  
I am Christ's friend. (**John 15:15**)  
I am united with the Lord. (1 Cor. 6:17)  
I am bought with a price. (**1 Cor. 6:19-20**)  
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)  
I am a personal witness of Christ. (**Acts 1:8**)  
I am the salt & light of the earth. (Matt. 5:13-14)  
I am a member of the body of Christ. (**1 Cor. 12:27**)  
I am free forever from condemnation. ( Rom. 8: 1-2)  
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant. (**Phil. 3:20**)  
I am free from any charge against me. (Rom. 8:31 -34)  
I am a minister of reconciliation for God. (**2 Cor. 5:17-21**)  
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 2:18)  
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms. (**Eph. 2:6**)  
I cannot be separated from the love of God. (Rom. 8:35-39)  
I am established, **anointed**, sealed by God. (**2 Cor. 1:21- 22**)  
I am assured all things work together for good. (Rom. 8: 28)  
I have been chosen & appointed to bear fruit. (John 15:16)

I belong to God  
And that is who **He** says I am. How about you?

Source: Devotions, [Crosswalk.com](http://Crosswalk.com)

# MINISTRY IMPACT

## FAITH THAT PLEASES GOD *Learning About Faith*

**Church/Home Theme: Christ Jesus Is Our Savior**

*faith*

*Studies in 1 Samuel, 2 Chronicles, Daniel, Proverbs, Isaiah,  
Habakkuk, Matthew, Luke, Romans*

### ***Adult Sunday School Lessons***

<b>Jan. 7</b>	<i>Faith and Righteousness</i>	Hebrews 11: 1-4a, 7a, 8, 17-18, 20-23, 32, 39-40
<b>Jan. 14</b>	<i>Faith and Trust</i>	Proverbs 3:1-8
<b>Jan. 21</b>	<i>Faith and Encouragement</i>	2 Chronicles 20: 13-20
<b>Jan. 28</b>	<i>Faith and Transformation</i>	Romans 12:3-8

# HEALTH IMPACT

## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM INFECTIONS *Stay Safe From Common Infections*

Infections. . . are caused by many types of germs such as viruses and bacteria. While most infections are mild and clear [up] on their own, some can be serious. . . Here is a list of common infections and tips about how to stay safe (*Care Connections*, by Accordant and BlueCross BlueShield).



### **Influenza (Flu):**

a lung infection that can cause fevers, coughing, and sore throats. While most people get better within days, the flu can be serious. This is very true for older adults, infants, and those with weak immune systems. Getting the flu vaccine or shot each year is a great way to stay safe.

### **Pneumonia:**

an infection that causes your lungs to fill with fluid. Pneumonia can cause coughing, fever, and trouble breathing. Shots can lower the risk of infection in children, older adults, and people with certain diseases.

### **COVID 19:**

a disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It spreads when we cough, sneeze, or talk. Staying up to date on your COVID-19 shots can help you stay safe.

### **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV):**

a lung virus that can lead to mild, cold-like symptoms. However, it can be serious for infants and older adults. There are RSV treatments and vaccines for both infants and older adults. There is a new shot approved for expectant mothers 32 to 36 weeks pregnant. It can protect their child from RSV as soon as [the child is] born. You can talk to your doctor . . . to learn more.

**Wash your hands often. Practice good hygiene. Avoid close contact with sick people. Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth often.**



## EDITOR SPOTLIGHTS ASPIRATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

It is my pleasure once again as I write this New Year's editor's column to share my thoughts on the promises and pitfalls of our New Year's aspirations/and resolutions. I give honor, praises, and glory to the One True God. I give honor and praises to God; because, He has brought me through mountainous times, desert experiences, and valley lows. He is my rock in a weary land.

The new year has dawned. Now, what are our aspirations/resolutions for this year?

There will be millions upon millions of aspirations/resolutions for this year, with worldly things being in the forefront. However, the Bible asks us to put God first in everything that we do; it is

*“...what  
are our  
aspirations  
/  
resolutions  
for this  
year?”*

*Continued on next page.*

# CONNECTIONAL IMPACT

## ASPIRATIONS/RESOLUTIONS.CONTINUED

because of Him that we have our beginning. Acts 17:28 states, For in him, we live and move and have our being.'

As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offsprings.'  
Our aspirations/resolutions are based on desires of the world and not on the spiritual aspects of life for the most part. Is there anything wrong with earthly desires? No. The downfall comes when we don't put things in order. We tend to put self first: the opposite of what God has asked us to do.

We have disregard and forgetfulness for the will of God; we are rash, impatient, and spiritually blind, to say the least. We don't ask for the guidance of His sovereign will or permissive will when making our plans. But we can quickly ask for His saving grace when our plans fall apart. Revelation 22:13 states, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

It is never too late to ask God for His blessing on whatever your heart desires, and if it is His will, you will reap the harvest of your labor.

Keep God first in all you do,

*Deacon Wallace E. Dinkins*  
*Public Relations Committee President & Newsletter Editor*

*Happy  
Birthday*  
to you

**We pray to God that there is never a shortage of love and care in your life. May your heart be filled with the joy of the Lord as you celebrate this special day.**



# CONNECTIONAL IMPACT

## CHURCH ALBUM

YWA members prepared to-go Christmas dinners for church members.

12.10.2023



**Front row center, L to R:** Faith Glover, Kathy Sanders, Rachelle Daniels, Gloria Thompson. **Back Row, L to R:** Ny'Asia Alston, Tylaysha Glover, , Kathy Dinkins-English, Willie Mae Thompson, Min. Carol Sanders, Desiree Dinkins-McMillan, and Keshia Pringle-Joe



Alta Sanders made sure each meal included rice.



Tylaysha Glover (left) and Ny'Asia Alston (right) packaged the rolls and cake



Keisha Pringle Joe attached labels to each container.



# CONNECTIONAL IMPACT

## CHURCH ALBUM. CONTINUED

**Usher Ministry celebrated its anniversary and held a Certificate of Dedication Service. Along with others, the service of Bernice Hill and Louise Bradford (both deceased) was recognized.**

**11. 19. 2023**



*Cynthia Ransom and Robert Dinkins (deacon) opened the 10AM service with scripture and prayer, respectively, for the ushers' anniversary.*



**L to R:** Bonnett Nash, Bertha Clea, and Lenny Singleton conducted the dedication service.



**Fourth From the Left:** Usher Ministry President Linnie Singleton received a gift basket, which was presented by Cynthia Ransom.



**Third From the Left:** Annette Dinkins was recognized for her dedicated service during the COVID-19 Pandemic. "May the work I've done speak for me."

**12. 17. 2023**



Mary Dinkins (left) was recognized for her dedicated service upon her retirement from the ministry. Linnie Singleton (president) and Annette Dinkins (vice president, in usher's attire) presented the plaque.



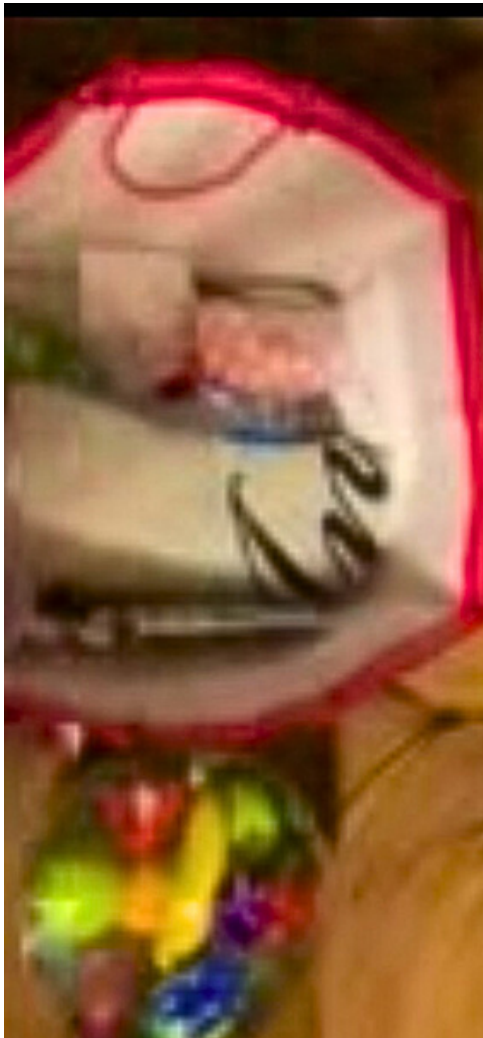
# CONNECTIONAL IMPACT

## CHURCH ALBUM. CONTINUED

Angel Tree Ministry gave fruit baskets to elderly members of the church.

Senior Missionary Ministry delivered gifts to sick and shut-in church members.

## *Christmas Gifts for Church Members*



*Peggy Sanders, president of the ministry, and Hattie Collier (right) are all smiles.*



*Gary Collick, Eula D. Osborne, Nancy Dinkins, and Rev. Mack (L to R) posed briefly.*



# CONNECTIONAL IMPACT

## CHURCH ALBUM. CONTINUED

Ministries showcase various themes on their Christmas trees.



*Ministerial Ministry*  
**1st Place**



*Choir Ministry*  
**2nd Place**



*Senior Missionary Ministry*  
**3rd Place**



*Public Relations  
Committee*



*Trustee Ministry*



*YWA Ministry*



*Angel Tree Ministry*



*We thank the judges from  
the Sumter community!*

# CONNECTIONAL IMPACT

## ACTIVITIES IN THE REMBERT COMMUNITY Celebrating Christmas Traditions

Seniors prepare Christmas tree ornaments at the Rembert Rafting Creek Community Center.





# CONNECTIONAL IMPACT

## ACTIVITIES. CONTINUED

Seniors enjoyed a Christmas luncheon, sponsored Edgar Sanders, held at the Rembert Rafting Creek Community Center.

12.19.2023



**Sumter County Councilman**  
*Carlton Washington*



# CONNECTIONAL IMPACT

## ACTIVITIES. CONTINUED

Students at Rafting Creek Elementary School share information about how Christmas is celebrated in Brazil, Jamacia, and Guatemala.

12.12.2023





# RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

*Growing As A Church With A Redemptive Purpose*

**Web:** [www.raftingcreekbaptistchurch.org](http://www.raftingcreekbaptistchurch.org) **Email:** [prcommittee@raftingcreekbaptistchurch.org](mailto:prcommittee@raftingcreekbaptistchurch.org) **Phone:** 803-432-5411  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/raftingcreekbaptistchurch/](http://www.facebook.com/raftingcreekbaptistchurch/)

## Public Relations Committee

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*(Social Media Platforms)*

### **Hattie Wade**

*Health & Wellness Contributor*

*(Newsletter)*

### **Bonnett Nash**

*Researcher/Chaplain*

## Meetings and Rehearsals

***Meetings and rehearsals will be held by Zoom or Conference Call until notified otherwise.***

### **Deacon Ministry**

Thursday, Before 1st Sunday, 6pm

### **Brotherhood**

2nd Saturday, 9am

### **Children/Youth**

Saturdays, Before 2nd & 4th Sunday, 12pm

### **Inspirational Choir**

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 11am

### **Male Choir**

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10am

### **Ministers & Deacons Spouses Ministry**

3rd Saturday, 12pm

### **Pastor's Aide Ministry**

2nd Saturday, 11am

### **Senior Missionary Ministry**

2nd Saturday, 12pm

### **Thursday Night Scriptural Presentations**

Weekly, 6pm

### **Young Women's Auxiliary**

1st Saturday, 10am

### **Trustees**

2nd Wednesday, 6pm

Winter Months, 4th Sunday, After Church