

# Mount Calvary Celebrates 40 Years of Kingdom Building

In honor of Mount Calvary Church's, Huntsville, Ala., 40th Anniversary (1982-2022), the church took the opportunity to celebrate by having all previous Conference presidents and pastors return and share in the three-month celebration beginning October 2022. Benjamin Jones Jr., president for South Central Conference, started the celebrations by speaking on Sabbath, October 8, 2022, and Rupert Bushner, D.Min., former pastor, capped off the celebration and spoke on December 17, 2022, for the Grand Anniversary Sabbath. All the speakers shared a soul-stirring, inspirational message.

The Anniversary Committee, which was chaired by Josette Paschal and co-chaired by Lorna Knight, met monthly since August 2021, to plan and execute the anniversary celebrations.

There were four honorees chosen. Two church individuals, Vera Bartholomew, a current member, and Yvonne Gidden, a former member. They were chosen for their tireless efforts in serving the church's senior citizens and community needs. Two community honorees were Royal Funeral Home and Albert's Flowers. Mount Calvary honored Royal Funer-

al Home, represented by Karen Jones Smith. Royal Funeral Home graciously opened its doors to the church to worship while the current church purchased land and obtained building plans to build the church. The first church pastor, Eric C. Ward, and the funeral home team relationship with James A. and Barbara Hundley Jones were valued, and an integral part of Mount Calvary's historical story.

Well wishes were received from numerous businesses — including the Southern Union Conference with a proc-

lamation sent by Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president; South Central Conference's president, Benjamin Jones Jr.; and Royal Funeral Home — which were displayed in a special historical souvenir booklet. Honorable Devon Keith, councilman of Huntsville City District 2, provided a proclamation on behalf of the City of Huntsville and Tommy Battle Jr., mayor, and the respective councils.

The church was very grateful for the baptized souls, and for the support of the members and community resi-



Karen Jones-Smith (center), Royal Funeral Home representative and a community honoree



Benjamin Jones Jr., South Central Conference president, was the October speaker.



Rupert Bushner, D.Min., grand anniversary speaker and former pastor

dents during the years. Carrie Oats and Estefania Howell, church members, were extremely instrumental in soliciting several ads in support of the event.

The Grand Anniversary Sabbath was a wonderful day for Mount Calvary as it highlighted its history. An elegant evening gala crowned the wonderful experience. The strategic mission of Mount Calvary was celebrated: "Moving from friendship to membership, to fellowship, to discipleship." The anniversary celebration reminded and recommitted the members of Mount Calvary to its mission. 🕊

BY JOSETTE PASCHAL



PHOTO BY: JOSETTE PASCHAL

Former pastors include Rupert Bushner, D.Min. (left), Antoine Maycock, Khaleel Clarke, Willie L. Taylor, Isadore DeSouza, Auldwin Humphrey, William Gilliard, and DeShon Juzang.

## Riverside Chapel Impacts Community

Riverside Chapel Church located on the north side of Nashville, Tenn., strongly believes in community stewardship. Youngs Lane, where the church is located, has become busier with the growth of housing and the increasing number of vehicles and people passing through the community, littering and dumping becoming a significant problem. To mitigate this, the Riverside Chapel Church came together and organized a street cleaning project to clean up trash and debris littered on their street. This project was part of the city's program to provide resources for neighborhood residents to volunteer to take pride in their environment and participate in keeping the neighborhood clean.

The Riverside Chapel Community Street Cleaning project is an initiative aimed at keeping the community clean and free of waste materials. The project was led by the church's SOW Ministry. The SOW ministry leads the church's outreach ministries, providing initiatives for members to sow God's love in the community of Nashville. The street cleaning initiative has



Street cleaning sign on Youngs Lane

brought members together to clean up the church's neighborhood.

"One of the responsibilities of Christianity is not only to think of the Kingdom's realm but its reign. Where we exist, we should make a difference in the community we exist in," said Gordon S. Jones, D.Min., senior pastor.

This community initiative encouraged members to take pride and responsibility in the community environment of Riverside Chapel's neighborhood. The street cleaning project has also fostered

a sense of unity and cohesiveness in the community. The volunteers involved in the project have shown a great deal of commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm. The neighbors have seen benefits already. This has set an excellent example for others, promoting a culture of civic engagement.

By organizing the clean-up event, Riverside Chapel Church has made significant strides in reducing waste, making its environment cleaner and safer for everyone. Currently, the project happens twice a year, with supplies furnished by the city of Nashville.

The Riverside Chapel Street Cleaning project is a prime example of the power of community involvement. Such projects are essential, not only to keep the environment clean but also to promote a culture of civic engagement. We can all learn a lot from the Riverside Chapel Community Street cleaning project, and adopt similar initiatives in other communities, making the world a better place.

BY ROGER R. WADE

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