

December Birthdays

12/01 Geneisha McNatt, Arthur McCallum, Lauren Holloway, Angela Brown
 12/02 +Maurice Evans
 12/03 Marqual Evans, +Ernestine Baldwin
 12/04 Todd Southerland
 12/05 Sharon Scott
 12/06 Adrienne Kennedy
 12/07 Jermitta McNatt, Maya Bennett, John Kennedy
 12/08 Derek Southerland
 12/10 Adrianna Thompson, +Mamie Patrick
 12/12 Nikki Love
 12/13 Jasmine Thompson, William Dudley Jr., Martez Evans, Tony Bridgett, +Journey Kennedy
 12/14 Aquila Faust, Jean Bridgett, Billy Love, +Phillip McDougald
 12/16 Abdul Ellis, Thomas Southerland
 12/17 Antonio Morris, Maggie Holly
 12/18 Jessica Underwood, Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Foy
 12/19 Bria Holly
 12/20 Shamika Campbell, George Kennedy, Gerald Mosby, Marlon McNair, Tyreik McCallum
 12/21 Damorion Johnson, Jacquell Hill
 12/22 Edward Hines
 12/23 Leann McKiver
 12/24 Grace Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Leazer, +Annie Southerland
 12/25 +Horace Blount Jr.
 12/26 Clarence Stockton
 12/28 Kanisha Addison, George Lessane, Zay Ginns
 12/29 Mary Houston, Shirley Blount, Montese Davis, +Deloris Hemphil
 12/30 Branlyn Mosby

Upcoming Events

- **Red Sunday December 20th - Wear your Christmas Red**
- **Christmas Dec. 25th**
- **Virtual Watch Night service Dec. 31st**



Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year! 2019

Sick and Shut In

Sis. Lela Crawford
 Bro. Joe Hall
 Sis. Hazel Hall
 Sis. Alma Dawson
 Sis. Linda Blackmon
 Bro. Clarence Odum
 Bro. Tony Bridgett

Sis. Melissa Stephens
 Sis. Laura Cade
 Bro. James Dockery
 Sis. Louise Underwood
 Rev. Arthur Foy
 Sis. Treva Thompson
 Sis. Sadie Graham

Bro. Willie Hall
 Sis. Shirley Blount
 Sis. Betty McNeill
 Sis. Neangela Brown
 Sis. Alma Dawson
 Sis. Mildred Davis
 Sis. Deloris Jennings

Newsletter



First Baptist Church
 504 West 2nd Street
 Lumberton, N.C. 28358

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Season Saint Spotlight Rev. Arthur Foy



Arthur Foy was born April 27, 1939 to Arthur Foy, Sr. and Minnie Bell Curry-Foy in Mineola, Long Island, NY. At the age of 12 he gave his life to Christ, was baptized, and joined Zion Baptist Church, Port Washington, NY, where he held many youth positions.

He graduated from Paul D. Schreiber High school in Port Washington, NY, and furthered his education later, after marriage to Shelby Barnes-Foy. He attended C.W. Post College and received a BA degree. He was ordained to preach at Zion Baptist church (1959), and was mentored by Sr. Pastor, Dr. J. B. Watts. There he served as assistant to the Pastor.

To continue his Ministry education, he moved to Evanston, IL to pursue a full scholarship at Garrett Theological Seminary, where he received his Master of Divinity Degree in 1979. He continued his studies as he pastored Olivet United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, and Southern Baptist church. NOTE: as part of his Theological studies, he was sent to pastor those churches.

After moving to NC, and joining First Baptist Church, under the leadership of Dr. E. B. Turner, he pastored Piney Grove Baptist church, and served 14 months as Interim Pastor of FBC, after Pastor Turner retired. During this time he worked at Southeastern Medical Hospital as Chaplain.

Season saint spotlight continue on page 2

A Moment in Black History

December 1, 1955- Rose Parks refused to change seats in a Montgomery, Alabama, bus. On December 5th blacks began boycott of the bus system which continued until shortly after December 13, 1956, when the United States Supreme Court outlawed bus segregation in the city.

December 18, 1865-The thirteenth amendment, outlawing slavery, was passed by congress

December 27, 1956- Spingarn Medal awarded Jack Roosevelt ("Jackie") Robinson, first Black in the major leagues, for his conduct on and off the baseball field.

Season Saints.....continue

Rev. Foy is the father of Serilda Foy-Goodwin (Brain), Torkel Foy, and Arthur Foy III (Deceased). He is the proud grandfather of seven grandchildren, Enjonae Anderson (Wayne), Brianna, Blaine, and Bianca Goodwin, Christian Arthur Foy, Caleb Foy, and Alexa Foy-Lomax. Two great grand's, Abigail Anderson, and John David Anderson

Remembering His Spirit.....

I can remember as a child being so caught up with the hustle and bustle of what I thought was the Christmas Spirit; Not realizing that we as Christians were set apart to not only be kind in November & December, but it was our duty to set ourselves apart by doing God's work on a daily basis. As believers in Christ we are charged to help others as He has helped us with the seen and also the unseen. God has a way of humbling us in what we would believe to be the most critical time (Covid19). But I would say are we not still blessed? Has he not still supplied our every need in spite of? God's Love for us has never changed. His Spirit remains the same time and time again. I will leave you with this scripture. John 4:7 (CE version) my dear friends, we must love each other. Love comes from God, and when we love each other, it shows we have been given new life. We are now God's children, and we know him.



Blessed Beyond Measure Sis. Regina Walters

THE PROMISE WITHIN THE PROBLEM

Merry Christmas everybody! This year has been a very challenging year to say the least. With the optimism of expectancy we had at the beginning of 2020, COVID-19 brought a pandemic problem the world hasn't seen since 1918. While we were making adjustments, the death of George Floyd and other people of color brought problems to our perspective of law enforcement and race relations. Peaceful protests that were done nationwide and even locally were mixed with several riots that became problematic. Businesses and companies either closed temporarily or permanently, leaving many unemployed with the problems of finding new employment while still having to pay their monthly expenses. To add insult to injury, our national leadership seemed to spew combustible rhetoric on the flames of civil unrest within our country. Missed opportunities with a census and an election where voter suppression, mudslinging and other problems were the fuel for many to either let the vote be their voice or become silent in a sea of hopelessness.

The community of faith felt the effects of these problems. With the buildings having to close, ministries scrambled to find ways to keep local membership engaged and inspired. Our gatherings were no longer physical but now virtual. Online giving became the new norm for many churches. Services and meetings were replaced with conference calls and zoom meetings. Some churches that ignored health regulations and restrictions became virus spreaders. The problem of not being able to visit the sick and shut-in of the congregation and even our individual families weighed heavily on many mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Many families experienced the death of loved ones which can bring different types of problems. Even our youth had to deal with not completing a school year or not having a traditional graduation. The end of the school year and beginning of a new one was now online. We were restricted from physical gatherings. Wearing a mask is our new norm. These problems seem to wear the best of us down.

In this season where most in the community of faith consider the birth Jesus, we see the fulfillment of the promise of the Most High. The promise made in Genesis 3:15 where God said, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel". This promise came into fulfillment after coming down 42 generations through the union of Joseph and Mary. This beautiful couple had problems of their own. While engaged, Mary, a virgin is now pregnant before she and Joseph consummate their union. That in itself is problematic on a whole other level. On a census year, the couple is unable to get a decent reservation in Joseph's hometown brings a problem especially if Mary is ready to give birth. With all these problems, Jesus, the promise is born in a lowly manger.

Beloved, you have heard me say religiously, "God is in control and He will bring us through". That comes from believing in a season where Mary and Joseph had overwhelming problems **but the Lord brought them through**. Our faith is strengthened when we can take courage in the fact that **God** who gave us the promise within a problem, **is still in control and He will bring us through**.