

APRIL 2008 ISSUE  
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# Hope

INAUGURAL  
EDITION

HOLSEY  
CHAPEL  
CHRISTIAN  
METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

Volume 1 - Edition 1

515 East Suwanee Street  
Fitzgerald, Georgia



*Holsey Chapel 2008 Sixth Episcopal District Spring Convocation delegates congratulate Bishop Othal Hawthorne Lakey and his wife Dr. Elfreda A. Lakey on a successful "One-In-The-Spirit" Banquet. From left to right: Steward Jim Turner, Jennifer Turner, Oletha Player, Bishop Othal Lakey, Dr. Elfreda Lakey, Celanese Floyd, and Steward Charles Coney. Also attending, but not pictured, were Rev. Dr. Leroy Dumas, Laura Dumas, and Zeola McGill.*

## "From GOOD to GREAT through Inspired and Informed Leadership"

Delegates from the C.M.E. church in the Sixth Episcopal District converged in Albany, Georgia for the 2008 Spring Convocation at the Hilton Garden Inn hosted by the Hines Memorial CME Church family. Over 300 persons began on Friday, March 28th with the official roll-call by Bishop Othal H. Lakey. Following, attendees dispersed for group sessions using the theme "Ships that Sail

the Church: LeaderSHIP, DiscipleSHIP, MemberSHIP, MentorSHIP, StewardSHIP," as directed by the Admiral, Rev. Curtis West from Bethel CME, Macon, Ga.

A highlight of the weekend was the "One-In-The-Spirit" Banquet which raised \$25K+ for the district endowment. The speaker was Dr. George C. Bailey, President, Paine College.

The convocation included

worship services and department updates relative to the 2008 Quadrennial Annual Conference this summer in Macon, Georgia.

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10th Annual  
Family & Friends Day



2008

Wednesday, May 21st thru Friday, May 23rd - 7:30 p.m. nightly  
Community Revival with local ministers and churches

Saturday, May 24th 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Church Picnic

Saturday, May 24th 7:00 p.m. - King & Queen Coronation

Sunday, May 25th - 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship Service

Sunday, May 25th - 3:00 p.m. - Afternoon Worship Service

## Mark your calendar:

Bible Study each  
Wednesday evening  
Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.  
Study begins at 6:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsals each  
Friday at 6:30 p.m.

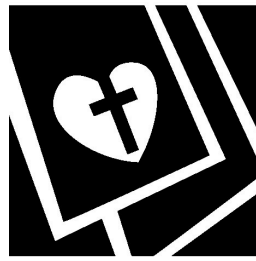
CYF & Youth Retreat  
Saturday, April 12  
Georgia Baptist Conference Center  
Norman Park, Georgia

Fellowship Service  
Sunday, April 13 - 3:00 p.m.  
First Fellowship Full Gospel Church  
Fitzgerald, Georgia

CME 6th District Choir Rehearsal  
[www.cmesixthmusic.org](http://www.cmesixthmusic.org)  
Saturday, April 19 - 12:00 p.m.  
Bethel CME Church  
Macon, Georgia

Fellowship Service  
Church Anniversary  
Sunday, April 20 - 4:00 p.m.  
St. Andrews CME Church  
Brunswick, Georgia

Ministry to Men Retreat  
April 25 - 27, 2008  
St. Paul CME Church  
Savannah, Georgia



# FROM THE PASTOR

## Historical Black Church

The historical Black church is one of the cornerstones of the Black race. This church has mothered and fathered the people. When other doors were closed to the people, the Black church was there. The support of the Black church is a shining lighthouse in the community. Our support and love should match all the church has stood for and is still standing for. We must uphold this gift from God to us. Uphold its service and gifts from the members and friends. We have something to offer the church. Therefore, let us keep the Black church as the historical parent for the people.

Rev. Dr. Leroy E. Dumas, Jr.

## Reflections on Stewardship

Christian Stewardship is a fundamental principle of the teachings of Jesus while He was on earth during his 33 years of ministry and is apparent throughout His words in the New Testament. Church stewardship has always been a theme emphasized throughout the Old Testament and further amplified within the New Testament. It is not that God needs money, after all, He owns the cattle on the hills and the hills as well! However, His emphasis on proper stewardship since Adam and Eve ruled the earth has been indicative of a deeper issue of the heart. Jesus taught through one of His New Testament parables, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Luke 12:34)

Biblical exhortations regarding the total issue of complete surrender for any Christian includes their responsibilities toward successful, financial management. Whether it is money, time, talent, material possessions, relationships or personal effort, God is interested in total submission to His purpose and plan for the life of every Christian. Church stewardship is only one area of giving that God is interested in since out of the heart flows the issues of life. Personal Christian stewardship as it relates to the corporate body of Christ is an important concept for believers to yield to in order to truly be surrendered to Him.

Steward Jim Turner



*Volunteers pictured from left to right are Michelle Flagg, Mildred Taylor, Thelma Graham, Joyce Jenkins, Rev. Leroy Dumas, Jim Turner, Roosevelt Freeman, Ola Freeman, Jennifer Turner, and Annie Pearl Stepherson. Also, participating, but not pictured were Christine Fletcher, Oletha Player, Jim Smith, and William Stepherson.*



## Regional Easter Food Drive

The Food Bank of Southwest Georgia says it has certainly seen the impact of hard economic times with a greater number of people in need of its services. While February was one of the best donation months, the Food Bank says it could always use more, especially canned goods. During the Easter weekend, the Food Bank sponsored an Easter Regional Food Bank Drive. Across the area, Sam's Club and Wal-Marts became the central point for accepting donations. In Fitzgerald, Holsey Chapel partnered with our local store, Wal-Mart Store # 686. Bo Carroll, store manager, and his staff provided the necessary facilities and space for the food collection.

*"Twenty-one percent of our population here in Southwest Georgia is at or below the poverty level."*



The Fitzgerald - Ben Hill County community donated over two hundred pounds of food items. Holsey Chapel volunteers manned the collection station and were able to share the blessings first-hand of this ministry. Hunger causes malnutrition, increases susceptibility to illness, and contributes to brain development deficiency. Southwest Georgia has some of the poorest counties in the State of Georgia, who desperately need our help. "We are proud to partner with this noteworthy organization," says Pastor Leroy Dumas.

The Food Bank's mission is to eliminate hunger in Southwest Georgia. Its goal is to ensure that every community that depends on its services is adequately assisted in efforts to end hunger. One out of every five families in the poverty stricken region lives at or below the poverty level. For every dollar spent, 93 cents is used in the community providing services that directly help people in need.

## Ministry Features

"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). Jesus' life was dedicated to others. As disciples of Christ, we have the opportunity to give of our time and talent in His service.

### Women encouraging Women

This spiritual outreach ministry's purpose is to connect and support women spiritually, economically, and socially from wherever they are.

Contact: Rev. Rosa Jackson

### Ministry to Men

This ministry addresses the growing concern throughout all of Christianity and within the CME Church specifically about the lack of male membership, participation, and leadership.

Contact: Derrick Frazier

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The ministries of Holsey Chapel are driven by a desire to give everyone a solid biblical direction for life. Hard decisions have to be made in the midst of confusing alternatives. It is the Word of God that brings the clarity and direction we need when we find ourselves at difficult crossroads.



Rev. Dr. Leroy E. Dumas, Jr.  
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Our first church was built on North Church Street. The site for this church was not adequate, and in 1924 two lots were purchased and a parsonage was built. In 1926, the old church was torn down and a new structure was erected at the East Oconee Street site. This accomplishment was done under the leadership of Rev. J. H. Jefferson. As time passed, the membership grew and there was a need for an educational facility.

During the 1960's, the first unit of the educational building was constructed and the parsonage was remodeled and brick veneered. This was accomplished under the leadership of the late Rev. B. M. Mayfield, the late Rev. S. L. McGill, and Rev. M. C. Pettigrew was the Presiding Elder. In 1981 additional rooms were added to the educational building and a parking lot was donated to the church. The educational building has served as an Outreach Center for many clubs, business groups, summer enrichment programs, annual Vacation Bible School, weekly Bible study, and many other community activities. The Bible teaches that "some plant seeds, and some water, but God causes the increase." This is plainly demonstrated in the history of Holsey Chapel C.M.E. Church. Tragedy struck the church on the night of August 8, 1997. Fire gutted the church building leaving the church without a church home. Charles C. Hall, Owner and Operator of Hall's Funeral Home, generously offered the accommodations of his new funeral chapel. Because of his

stewardship and generosity, Holsey Chapel was able to continue its scheduled program of worship while searching for a new permanent home.

Rev. E. Love Harris was appointed pastor in June 1996 and continued to serve during the search period. On alternating Sundays, Rev. Harris conducted worship service at Holsey Chapel and Broaches Chapel, Ocilla. Holsey Chapel, which met each first and third Sunday, was planning on becoming a station church, that is holding service every Sunday. June 10, 1998 will long be remembered as the day members officially acquired a new church home, located at 515 East Suwanee Street. Rev. Harris officially retired from the active ministry in June 1998 at the Annual Conference. Holsey Chapel was without a pastor for six months, and Rev. Carlton Mahone was appointed pastor by Bishop Othal H. Lakey. Rev. Mahone reported to Holsey Chapel on the third Sunday in December 1998. Holsey Chapel continued to grow and expand under his dynamic leadership. The 2006 South Georgia Regional Annual Conference convened at Holsey Chapel and Rev. Dr. Leroy E. Dumas, Jr. was assigned as pastor in charge. Rev. Dumas, along with his family, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Holsey Chapel family. Today, our Worship Center encompasses an entire city block with ample worship facilities, meeting rooms, and parsonage.

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Hope