



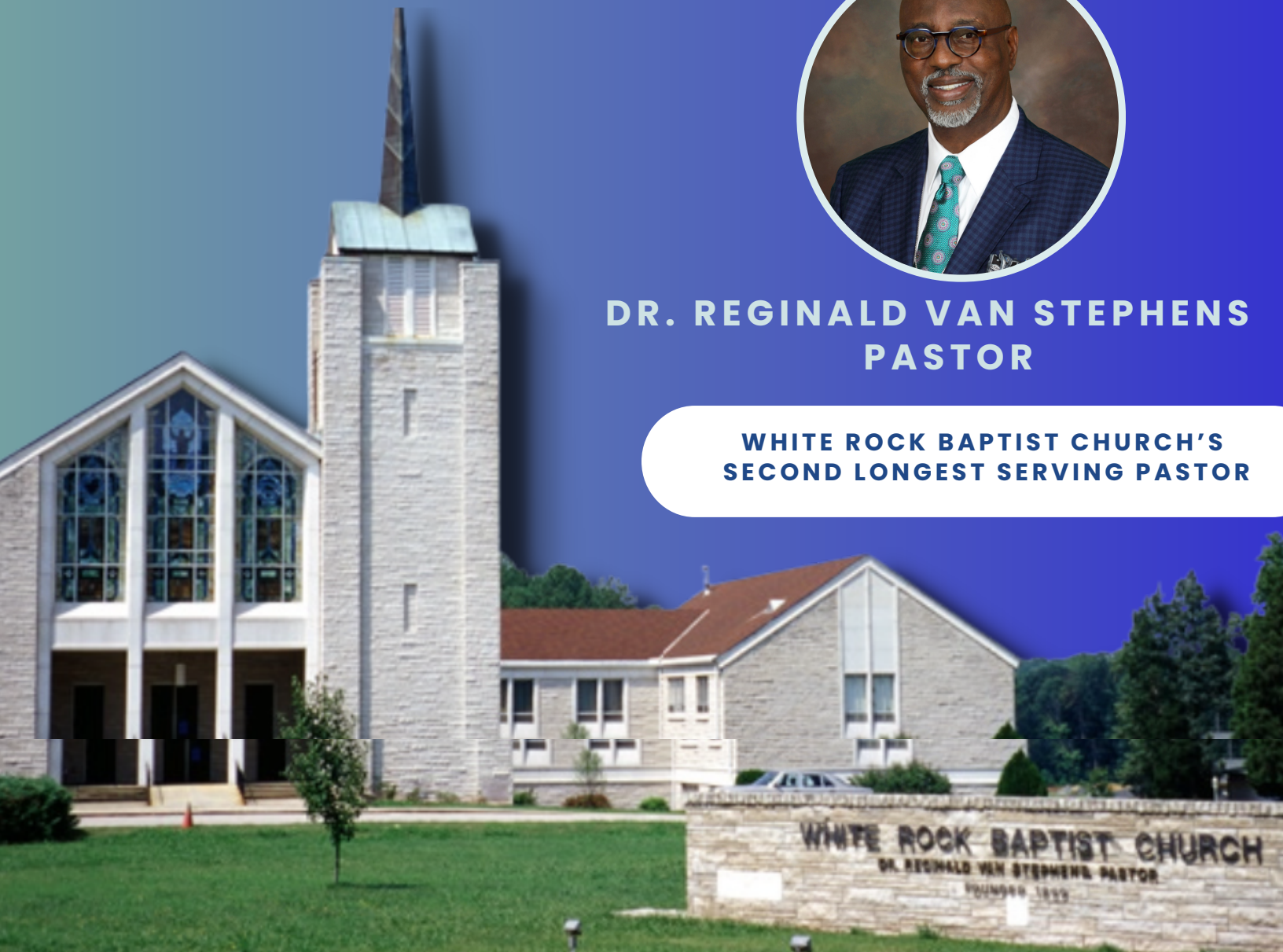
WHITE ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH

**2023 CHURCH THEME:
"COMMITTED TO LOVING CHRIST AND
EACH OTHER!"
JOHN 15:9-12**



**DR. REGINALD VAN STEPHENS
PASTOR**

**WHITE ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH'S
SECOND LONGEST SERVING PASTOR**



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GOD is *Good,*
all the time.

From the Newsletter Editor

Dear WRBC Family,

As the air turns brisk, the trees' lights hang, and toys fill the shelves there is no mistaking it -- the reason for the season to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior has officially arrived. The birth of Jesus is remarkably the most glorious time of the year as we reflect on his sacrifice and gift to the world. The season of Advent begins TODAY, December 3, 2023. Let us prepare our hearts and minds during this season together as we celebrate the giver of life.

December also marks the last month of the calendar year which then leads to a new year. As a church family, we have embarked on an exceptional year at White Rock Baptist Church celebrating church milestones like our 157th church anniversary to the 25th anniversary of the Child Development Center (CDC). Our dedication to remain "Committed to Loving Christ and Each Other," as this year's church theme elevates our love for Christ and Christian stewardship. This is an exciting time for White Rock Baptist Church, and the many achievements of our work are a direct result of the unwavering support, hard work, and expertise of our dedicated ministerial staff, office staff, and church members. Under the direction of God through our pastor, I am thrilled about our church's future as we begin the year 2024.

I know we have eagerly anticipated the holiday season and I encourage you to celebrate with your family and friends but let us remember those in need. The positive impact we make by helping those less fortunate helps us create a more equitable society. Our community is stronger together. In addition, I am confident we will embrace the new year as a church family ready to do what God has prepared for us.

"For God so loved the world, he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life, " says John 3:16. I am grateful for each of you and praise God for lending us his son, Jesus. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. God's promises are truly yes and amen! Enjoy the last newsletter of the year.

Joy to the world,



WRBC Newsletter Editor

Kelley Traynham



Hello, White Rock Baptist Church family and community friends,

The White Rock Baptist Church Grief Support Group has been an active and helpful addition to the community for the past two years. We are increasing our support to better serve our members and the community by meeting weekly instead of only on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month via Zoom.

SIS. SHIRL DAVIS KIDD
STEPHEN LEADER

We will meet every Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., which began on Tuesday, October 25, 2023. Sign up online via the White Rock Baptist Church website to participate.

On an interim basis, I facilitate the Grief Support Group in the absence of Kimberly Blackshear. I have completed three years of coursework to obtain a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and my expected graduation is in 2024. Kimberly Blackshear is a licensed therapist in the state of North Carolina. Kimberly will soon return as the primary facilitator, and I will serve as co-facilitator. In my role, Jodi Aina, clinical mental health counselor, supervises me. Jodi is licensed in North Carolina and Massachusetts and owns Whole Life Therapeutics, PLLC, located in Cary, North Carolina.

Please remember you don't have to suffer in silence. God has provided a resource for you in the Stephen Ministry, where you can receive one-on-one confidential caregiving by a trained Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are not professional counselors or therapists. Each minister receives almost six months of training on how to provide one-on-one caregiving and an additional 17.5 hours in continuing education.

With the help of God, our ministry provides another resource if you want professional help through Whole Life Therapeutics, PLLC. As a student, my services are pro bono. If you are considering additional support through your season of grief, please contact Whole Life Therapeutics, PLLC, by phone at (919) 931-0001 or via email: wholelifetherapeutics@gmail.com to schedule an appointment.

Sincerely,
Shirl Davis Kidd



AGAPE INCARCERATION MINISTRY EXTENDS COMPASSION TO DURHAM COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER: DONATED BACKPACKS TO BRING HOPE AND HYGIENE

In a heartwarming display of compassion and community outreach, our church's Agape Incarceration Ministry (A.I.M.) recently undertook a meaningful initiative to provide essential toiletries for inmates at the local justice center. With a strong commitment to supporting those incarcerated, our ministry collected and distributed backpacks filled with toiletries to help improve the lives of individuals within the justice system.



BRO. TIM COLES
AGAPE INCARCERATION
MINISTRY

The idea for this ministry project began as a simple act of kindness inspired by the desire to offer comfort and dignity to those who may have lost their way. White Rock Baptist Church recognizes the challenges faced by inmates, including limited access to personal hygiene items, and saw an opportunity to make a positive impact. Over several months, our ministry assembled backpacks filled with essential toiletries: soap, washcloths, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant. These backpacks were carefully packed with care and love, symbolizing our church's commitment to spreading compassion beyond the walls of our sanctuary.

Once the backpacks were ready, our A.I.M. ministry coordinated with the center staff to arrange delivery. The response from the center was both appreciative and positive to recognize the importance of this gesture in promoting a sense of dignity and well-being among the former detainees. Through this ministry project, we aim to provide physical comfort and show inmates they are still a part of society. We hope these backpacks will serve as a symbol of hope and support, reminding those within the justice system that they are valued as individuals and deserve respect and care.

This initiative not only exemplifies the spirit of our church but also highlights the power of collective action and compassion within our community. We believe by reaching out to those in need, we can make a real difference and offer a glimmer of hope even in the most challenging circumstances.

As we continue to carry out acts of kindness and support for those in our community, we hope to inspire others to join the Agape Incarceration Ministry in extending love, compassion, and grace to those who need it most. Together, we can make our community a more compassionate and understanding place for all. We express our gratitude to Helen Featherson, outreach ministry coordinator. May this initiative remind us of the transformative power of love and kindness, and it will inspire us to continue spreading hope and positivity.





SIS. ANN PENN
STEPHEN MINISTRY

Becoming a Stephen Minister in White Rock Baptist Church is a life-transforming experience—an opportunity to serve God, help others, and grow in faith. Here, you'll learn more about what it means to become a Stephen Minister. A new training class is starting in 2024. Contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Rev. Regina Mitchell, Shirl Davis Kidd, or Ann Penn today to find out more about this ministry.



What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Expressing Christ's Care for Others

Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They express Christ's care for others by listening and comforting, calling on their training, and employing the tools of faith.

Stephen Ministers Care

When was the last time someone really listened to you, paying full attention to your needs? We need more Stephen Ministers to provide that kind of care for those journeying through a life crisis.

Small Seeds, Mighty Trees

Paul wrote, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow" (1 Corinthians 3:6). Is it time to add more water to the seeds of faith that have been planted in you? Consider joining our upcoming Stephen Minister training class to grow into a new ministry role.

Grow in the Lord

The more you focus on doing God's work, the more satisfaction you will find. If you're looking for opportunities to serve, consider training as a Stephen Minister! By helping others, you will help God's kingdom grow—while growing yourself. There is joy and freedom when we put the needs of others ahead of our own. Stephen Ministry provides this kind of joy and freedom through caring ministry. If you've ever thought about bringing Christ's love to those who are hurting, consider this ministry.

Give the Very Best

When people suffer, they deserve the best care and support we can offer. That's why our congregation has Stephen Ministers—their training, commitment, and service help them provide the best care for people who need it. God's command that we love one another is as relevant now as it was thousands of years ago, and Stephen Ministry is one way you can show that love. Our congregation cares, seeking to share God's love with all people—and one way we express that care is by our commitment to Stephen Ministry. If God is calling you to take a more active role in Christian caregiving, then Stephen Ministry may be just what you're looking for.

Positive Impact

You can make a positive impact on people's lives by answering God's call to serve. Our Stephen Ministers walk with hurting people at times when they most need someone to care.

Giving Back

Many of us have been cared for by another person during a difficult time, or blessed by the compassion of others when we needed it the most. You may have been wondering about how to give back. One significant way is by serving as a Stephen Minister to offer care and compassion to someone else going through a difficult time.

SUE JACKSON JARMON DAY

Pastor Stephens has proclaimed **Sunday, December 10, 2023**, as Sue Jackson Jarmon Day. Sue Jarmon has served as the Church Clerk and Secretary for over 20 years. At the end of this month, Sister Jarmon will step down from her role and take on her second stint of retirement life. She will remain committed to White Rock as a faithful member by working in ministries, and we are thankful in advance for her continued leadership in the way God intends for her.



SIS. KELLEY TRAYNHAM
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Sister Jarmon was born in Kings Mountain, North Carolina and quickly arrived in Durham, North Carolina to attend North Carolina College for Negroes now North Carolina Central University (NCCU). There is no denying her love for NCCU, "Eagle Pride Amplified" as Golden Eagle. Upon graduation from college, she entered the workforce then retired and later joined the White Rock Baptist Church office staff. In her role as Church Secretary, Sister Jarmon handles the day-to-day needs of the church to keep members informed on church news, community events, death, illnesses, and so much more. As Church Clerk, she maintains the church records, records church meeting minutes, and writes resolutions. She is known for her affectionate, selfless, and loving spirit toward all those around her.

Outside of her White Rock family, she is the wife of Mack Jarmon, sister of Walter A. Jackson and the late Jacq Herman, mother of David, Dennis, and Delbert Jarmon, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. Sister Jarmon has many community affiliations including being a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Sue Jackson Jarmon Day
Sunday, December 10, 2023

We join Pastor Stephens in celebrating Sister Jarmon on her service and are excited for her next chapter and everything it holds. Her work has not only helped the church grow but thrive through the years. A gift basket in the church sanctuary will be placed for members to share expressions of love for Sister Jarmon.

A THANK YOU TO WRBC CAST MINISTRY

The following letter was submitted by CAST Ministry Chair Kimberly Sherrill



W.G. PEARSON
MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



SIS. KIMBERLY SHERRILL
CAST MINISTRY

November 14, 2023

To: White Rock Baptist Church CAST Ministry

Attn: Kimberly Sherrill

Thank you for your generous donation of school supplies, printing paper, notebooks, and more for our scholars here at W.G. Pearson Magnet Elementary School. Your willingness to help us make sure that all our students will have the confidence and materials needed to perform at the highest level during the regular school day and the end-of-grade testing is truly a blessing.

We would love to keep the White Rock Family in the loop about all the great things we are doing at W.G. Pearson Magnet Elementary School.

I am always available to set up a visit or answer any questions you may have. Feel free to call me anytime at 919.560.3988 x 88009, or email me at Delbert_jarmon@dpsnc.net.

Again, thank you for all you do for our students and staff. We greatly appreciate you.

Sincerely,

Delbert Jarmon

Community Liaison/Magnet Coordinator

W.G. Pearson Magnet Elementary School

919.560.3955 ext. 88009

Delbert_jarmon@dpsnc.net

P.S. We depend on volunteers. If you would like to be a volunteer in the building, please contact me for available opportunities.

HONORING ELOISE JORDAN: WRBC'S FIRST WEBMASTER



DR. JOYCE BLACKWELL
CIM MINISTRY

It is very common for people in the church to join ministries and then later, for whatever reason, leave those ministries. What is uncommon, however, is having someone to join a ministry and, while in that ministry, served in such a way that he or she leaves an indelible mark on the ministry and the church—a mark that will be included in the church's annals or historical records. This is the type of mark that Sister Eloise Jordan made on the Communication and Information Ministry (CIM) as webmaster before deciding to step down to serve in other ministries.

While serving with CIM, Sister Eloise, following God's lead and guidance, developed the church's first-ever website and will be forever known for that. She created a ministry that we could, and did, use to assist us in, among other things, in carrying out God's Great Commission. The website is like a front door to the church—it shares with not only the members of the congregation but also those in our community and potentially all over the world the good work that we are doing in our respective ministries, different sermons delivered by either Pastor Stephens or the associate ministers, information on how to join our prayer ministries, Bible Discovery classes and even church. The website can not only bring Christ to others but also bring people closer to Christ.

So, for that, Sister Eloise was honored for her contributions on Sunday, November 19 by CIM Ministry Chair Deaconess Joyce Blackwell and the two new co-webmasters Kelley Traynham and Tanisa Little. We are thankful that God gave Sister Eloise the vision to create this valuable ministry and she served faithfully in the role for over a decade. A few small tokens of appreciation were presented to include a dozen roses, plaque, and gift basket from the CIM ministry. We ask God to use all of us to bring someone to Jesus Christ as well.

*thank
you*



Sister Eloise C. Jordan

December

BIRTHDAYS



May God bless you with abundant joy and happiness on your birthday!

Cindy Moore, 1
Aleta Broussard, 2
Anna Jones, 2
Trannie Meekins, 2
Jami Singletary, 2
Alexis Walker, 4
Kenneth Brown, 6
Mary Stevenson, 6
Albert Baptist Jr., 7
Amir Davenport, 7
Emma Pate-Wall, 7
Betty Davis, 8
Carolyn Walker, 8
Linda Hubbard Curtis, 9
Marva Thorpe, 9
Carrie Davis, 10
John Nunn, 10
Aaron Barnes, 12
Roxann Dixon, 12
Raymond Johnson, 12
Nathan Shirley, 12
Hazel Gibbs, 13
Laura Grady, 17

Ronald Oldham, 17
Phyllis Thomas-Thorpe, 18
Sally Fields, 19
Avery Myles, 19
Wyatt Myles, 19
Feleica Robinson, 20
Kiaje Creswell, 21
Gloria Fuller, 21
Kerry Eley, 23
William Forte Jr., 24
Lela Tina Hester, 25
Vaughn McMillan, 25
Chasity Matthews, 27
Courtney Fields, 28
Jonah Curry, 30
Brenda Toomer, 30



Angel Tree Ministry

The White Rock Baptist Church Angel Tree Ministry, part of our Missions and Evangelism Cluster, provides an opportunity to share Christ's love by helping to meet the needs of others. This year, we have the opportunity to serve 80+ individuals, ranging in age from four months to 90+ years young on our Angel Tree. The Angel tags will come from multiple organizations/groups - Prison Fellowship Ministry, Department of Social Services, Single Mothers Mentoring Ministry, etc. Beginning Sunday, November 26, The Angel Tree Ministry will have angel tree tags in the vestibule and Moore-Kennedy classroom. Each angel tag will reflect a short profile, the age of the recipient, gender, and gift suggestions with additional instructions. You may select your TAG(S) from either location. All gifts should be new - PLEASE include gift receipts for clothing items when possible. Gifts may be returned unwrapped or wrapped. If you want to sponsor an individual(s) but do not wish to shop, we will gladly accept your monetary contribution and shop for you. Contributions should be made through your church envelope, Givelify, etc. but please note Angel Tree Ministry in the memo line. We thank God for this opportunity to serve him through this ministry and help meet some of the needs in our community.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Sunday, December 3 (TODAY) - Angel Tags will be available in the vestibule and Moore-Kennedy classroom. Gifts may also be returned in at this time.

Sunday, December 10 - All gifts must be returned at the end of morning service.

If you have any questions or would like to select an angel tag, please email Chair Letitia Spencer at letitiaspencer2@gmail.com or by phone at 919-943-1608.

Sunday Morning Live

Sunday Morning Live (Sunday School class for children ages 5-12) will host its morning Christmas play on **Sunday, December 17**, in the Fellowship Hall. The teachers for this class are Ms. Lori Flowers, Dr. Kimberly Jenkins, Ms. Letitia Spencer and Ms. Terra Crudup. Everyone is invited to join the program this year and support our youth. Additional information will be provided as the date draws near!

Audio Visual Booth Ministry

Congratulations to Jeff Hester who was appointed the new chair of the A-V Booth Ministry. Brother Hester joined the WRBC family this year along with his wife Dr. Lela (Tina) Hester. Additionally, Minister George Booth owner of Sound Booth, LLC. has been hired as the permanent sound engineer who started Sunday, November 26. We look forward to Brother Hester's leadership and the work of Minister Booth.



White Rock Baptist Church

Dr. Reginald Van Stephens, Pastor

3400 Fayetteville St. Durham, NC 27707

Phone: 919-688-8136, Fax: 919-688-9152

E-mail: wrbc@whiterockbaptistchurch.org

Website: www.whiterockbaptistchurch.org

Newsletter Editor – Kelley Traynham

(Submit newsletter articles to newsletter@whiterockbaptistchurch.org)

Newsletter Design—Deaconess Joyce Blackwell, Ph.D. & Kelley Traynham

Schedule of Services

Sunday School	Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
New Disciple Orientation/Bible Study.	Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
Worship Service	Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Mid-Week Prayer	Wednesday @ 12 Noon & 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study	Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

The Lord's Supper (1st Sunday during 9:30 a.m. Worship Service)