



## THE WITNESS

You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard.  
Acts 22:15

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIXTH BAPTIST CHURCH

400 S. Addison St. Richmond, VA 23220



WWW.SIXTHBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG

FEBRUARY 2026

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

REV. TRACY CLARK  
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PASTOR

EDITOR IN CHIEF

MIA ELEY  
PASTOR'S & CHURCH'S  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**E.L. FLEMING**  
**Gospel Chorus**  
**55th Anniversary**

Join us this Sunday morning, Feb. 15th at 10:00 a.m. for a dynamic worship experience as we celebrate the E.L. Fleming Gospel Chorus' 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

A heartfelt Happy New Year and belated Merry Christmas to you all. Please accept my sincere apologies for the late wishes. It is my prayer that God's grace and peace will be with you throughout this new year. May you always keep God first in all that you do. Pray about everything and worry about nothing. Continue to walk with the Lord because when you walk with the Lord, you'll never be out of step

God Bless All,  
PB



A- Be Theresa Bracey -266-8143  
Bi- By Mary Lou Brent- 323-7192  
C - D Carl Scott -214-7771  
E - F Mary Cooper- 262-7847

G -Wilhemina Elliott- 307-5215  
H - I Kayla Courtney- 467-2037  
Ja-Joh Oscar Taylor- 502-4570  
Jon-Joy Edward Greenhill- 643-1632

### **DIACONATE MINISTRY PLAN**

K - L Marilyn Freeman- 307-5405  
M-N Esteletta Davis -938-2784  
O - Q Lorraine Vincent -737-7267

R- Ronnie West, Jr.- 272-5169  
S- Mae Gabbin -252-6292  
T -Joseph Bell- 932-4515  
U - Z Jacob Scott -980-0263

## **SICK AND SHUT IN**

Ann Gathers  
Willie Gathers  
Sandra Gray  
Thelma McCaskill  
Johnnie Robinson  
Gwendolyn Coles  
Doris Johnson  
Claudette Baker

Opehlia Daniels  
Barbara Jones  
Marylou Brent  
Larrine Faye  
Oliver Coleman  
Elnora Jefferson  
Annie Thompson  
Norma Murray

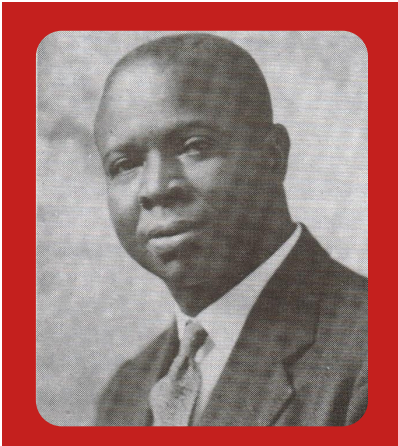
Victor Herbert  
Tonya Parker  
Kelvin Hill  
Betty Williams  
Norma Terry  
Yvonne Pollard  
Steve Lewis  
Mr. Maurice Patterson  
Mrs. Delores Patterson

***My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my  
heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:26***

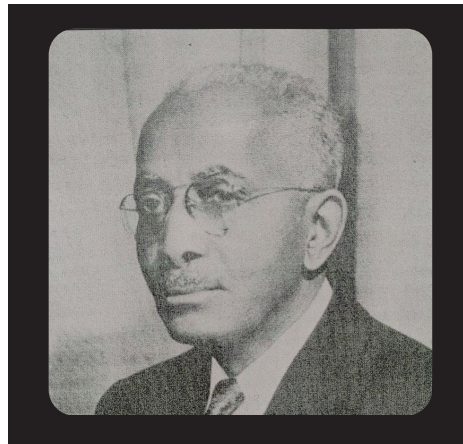
**BLACK  
HISTORY**

## Called to Lead: Faithful Leaders Who Have Shaped SBC History

The story of Sixth Baptist is shaped by five devoted leaders who answered God's call with courage, humility, and vision. Through preaching, teaching, and faithful service, they guided this congregation in times of growth and challenge, grounding their leadership in prayer and love. This Black History Month, we honor their witness and give thanks for the legacy of faith they helped build, one that continues to bless generations.



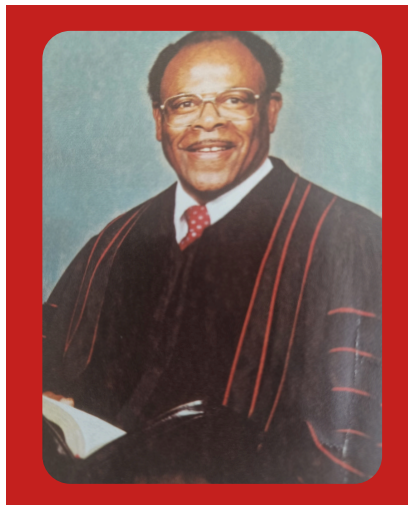
Rev. Edward D. Caffee  
1923-1927



Rev. Joseph A. Arrington  
1927-1960



Rev. Haywood G. Knight  
1961-1968



Rev. Dr. E.L. Fleming  
1969-2000



Rev. Dr. Yvonne Jones Bibbs  
2001-Present



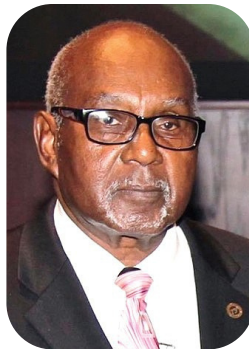
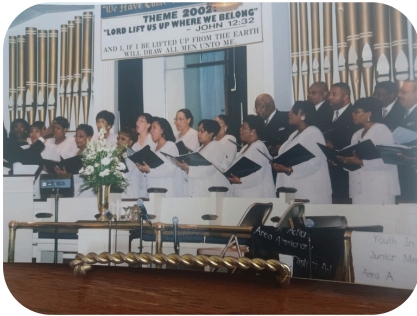
*"Don't ask what the world needs, ask what makes you come alive, and go do it, because what the world needs is people who have come alive".*

*Howard Thurman (theologian, pastor and mentor to Dr. King)*



## Sixth Baptist Church: A Sacred Cornerstone

For generations, Sixth Baptist Church, standing proudly on the corner of Addison and Idlewood has been far more than a place to worship, but a sanctuary, and a hub in the community. This Black History Month, we honor the enduring legacy of those before us and those who continue to be a sacred cornerstone for all who enter its doors.



*Celebrate*  
**Black**  
HISTORY  
*month*



## Faithful Servants in the History of the Music Ministry

Music has long been a vital ministry in the life of Sixth Baptist Church, brought to life through the faithful service of our musicians and choir directors. Through their dedication, and discipline, they help prepare our hearts to receive the Word each time we gather. This Black History Month, we honor those past and present whose deep love for the church, for God, and for God's people continues to enrich our worship.

### Choir Directors & Assistants



James Lee Bibbs  
Brenda Chavis  
James Chiles (and organist)  
Ronald Coles  
Curtis Drayton  
Tommy Drayton  
Shirley Fleming  
Joyce Harding  
Shirley Higgs  
Leroy Hughes  
J.D. Lewis (and keys)  
F. Ralph Mason Jr.  
Gloria Smith  
Russelyne Smith  
Ronnie West  
Wanda West



### Rhythm Section

SBC Percussionists & Bassists

Tim Black  
Warren "Boo" Branch  
Arnold Eleazer  
Brian Johnson  
A. Gerard Reese  
Erle Robinson



### Horn Section

Kevin Anderson  
Rich Lilliston



### Pianists, Keyboardists Organists

Shirley Arnold  
Jonathan Bibbs  
George Black  
Vanessa Jones Carter  
Tracy Clark  
Debo Dabney  
Marie Fleming  
Winnie Fleming  
P.L. Johnson  
Kevin Minor  
Meta Staten  
Ms. Temple  
Wilma Green Turner  
Ms. Cora Washington





## Our Story, Our Church, Our Witness

Black history is not just something we study, it's something we live. Within our own congregation are stories of faith, service, and perseverance worth honoring. This Black History Month, we give thanks for the lives, testimonies, and gifts that strengthen our church family every day.



**BLACK  
HISTORY**



## Passing It On: Faith Across Generations

Black history is a living testimony, passed down through stories, songs, and Sunday mornings. Our elders and ancestors have taught children not only how to thrive, but how to trust God, serve others, and walk with dignity. This month, we celebrate the generations who kept the faith, and those who are carrying the mantle forward.







Julia Martin-2  
Maurice Patterson-5  
Edward Greenhill-10  
Anita Coley-11  
Pamela Bennett-14  
Herman West-14  
Carlos Cooper-15



## FEBRUARY

George Black III-18  
Major Fleming-18  
Gordon Greenhill-22  
Debra Branch-22  
Breelyn Thomas-23  
Charles Pleasants-25  
Pastor Yvonne Jones Bibbs- 27  
Hilton Epps-27  
Ernestine Bennett-29



### To Pastor Bibbs & Sixth Baptist Church

Thank you for your generous gift to help with meet the needs of individuals working to find safe housing or overcome substance use disorder.



### To The Senior Trailblazers

Thanks for the lovely gifts  
Delores & Maurice Patterson

Thank you Sixth Baptist Church for your generous gift to St. Joseph's Villa. Your generosity will help make 2026 triumphant for those working to overcome housing, mental health and educational obstacles!



### To Pastor Bibbs, Deacon West, & SBC Church Family,

I am grateful that our paths crossed and for over 20 years Sixth Baptist has been a consistent & unexpected blessing to me, my family and so many others. We are grateful for you all!!  
With love and appreciation,



Thank you so much,  
God Bless, Ann Gathers

Mia Eley