

## RAPHAEL WARNOCK'S JOURNEY TO EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH BEGAN WITH TALKS ABOUT THE BIBLE AT THE FAMILY DINNER TABLE

# His father's son

JOHN BLAKE

When the Rev. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock preaches his first sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church on Sunday morning, he will walk past an image in the church's lobby that would make many ministers shudder.

That image is a photograph of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights icon who was once Ebenezer's pastor. King's portrait hangs on the wall of the church's foyer alongside the framed photographs of four other pastors who've led the church during its 119-year history.

But the portrait of the man who inspired Warnock even more than King doesn't hang on Ebenezer's walls. That man was a junkman, and Warnock's father.



Jonathan Warnock raised Raphael and his 11 siblings in a housing project in Savannah by salvaging abandoned cars. He rose at 6 every morning -- "no man lays in bed in the morning," he'd tell his children -- put on a plaid shirt, steel-toed boots and greasy overalls before searching the streets for auto parts that other people threw away.

On Sundays, though, he splashed his face with Brut cologne, donned a suit and searched for abandoned souls. He became the Rev. Jonathan Warnock, the Pentecostal preacher who often "put more money in the plate" than what his small church could afford to pay him, Raphael Warnock recalled. The image of his father praying and sighing over the Bible the night before, wondering aloud if he had enough energy to preach the next day, is still lodged in Warnock's memories.

"The man who worked on broken cars all week worked on broken people on Sunday morning," Warnock said. "That was my introduction to pastoral ministry."

Those who know Warnock, 36, as Ebenezer's new minister invariably cite his credentials. Morehouse College graduate; a Master of Divinity and a Master of Philosophy from Union Theological Seminary; assistant pastor at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City; pastor of his own church in inner-city

Baltimore for the past five years.

Talk to those who have known Warnock as a man and they mention his father. Jonathan Warnock, who had a high school education, made a living rebuilding old cars. But he preferred assembling ideas. When he would come home in the evening, the dinner-table discussion would inevitably turn to the elder Warnock's favorite subject -- the Bible, Valencia Warnock, Raphael Warnock's sister, recalled.

Valencia Warnock said her father didn't tell his kids what they should believe. He encouraged them to think for themselves. He would challenge conventional interpretation of biblical passages, ask his children what each biblical story meant, and encouraged them to look at the historical context of Scriptures.

"My brother went to theology school, but his school really started around the dinner table," she said.

Once, when celebrating Easter, the elder Warnock took issue with the traditional meaning of the Easter story -- that Jesus died because of mankind's sins. Did Jesus, he asked his children, also die because he was a political revolutionary who sided with the poor? Valencia Warnock remembered.

"He brought out the political issues in the Easter story," she said. "Can you imagine

telling this to kids? We only wanted our Easter eggs."

Yet Raphael Warnock wanted more. He wanted to be a pastor like his father. Valencia Warnock said she recalled hearing her father groan from fatigue one Sunday morning, saying, "I don't know what I'm going to bring to the people today."

"'Oh, don't worry. I'll preach for you today,'" she recalled her brother saying. Raphael Warnock was 6 years old at the time.

### Emotion and scholarship.

By the time he was 11, Warnock had preached his first sermon. In high school, classmates dubbed him "Rev." While some classmates quoted pop songs, he quoted the speeches of King.

Warnock also gravitated to the types of churches that supported King. He was licensed and ordained as a minister by Sixth Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham, a church that was a central staging area in the civil rights movement. He also served 10 years, first as a youth pastor, then as assistant pastor, at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City, another historic church known for its activism.

He said he tries to meld the emotion of his father's sermon with the scholarship of his seminar training.

"I bring both learning and burning to the pulpit," he said.

When he talked about his pastoral philosophy from Ebenezer recently, Warnock said he is writing his dissertation on the tension in the black church between those ministers who emphasize personal piety and prosperity to those that stress social transformation.

The subject isn't just academic to him. It's personal. He said he doesn't like the theology that

associates faith with only upward mobility. Preachers need to challenge the root causes of economic injustice. It's what King did, up to his very last campaign where he traveled to support striking garbage workers, Warnock said.

"King didn't preach to garbage collectors [that] they should 'name it and claim it.' He spoke to the social structure that was oppressing the garbage collectors. And for that, he gave his life. To me, that's what Christian ministry is all about."

It's not enough when black churches claim King's legacy by announcing the opening of a soup kitchen or a soup pantry, he said.

"It's great that churches have soup kitchens, but that's not enough," Warnock said. "It's our job to speak to Caesar, to speak to Pharaoh and to tell him to let my people go -- not simply give them more soup."

### Leadership style

A passion for social justice, though, doesn't make a good preacher. At least two men who know Warnock as a pastor say he has other skills that will serve Ebenezer as well.

Calvin O. Butts, the senior pastor of Abyssinian in New York, said Ebenezer is getting a solid scholar and a gifted preacher.

"He's not a spinning, twirling, hooping preacher, but he's fiery," Butts said. "His sermons are well-constructed. They appeal to the heart and the mind. I'm very bullish on Raphael Warnock."

Judith Pickens, a member of Ebenezer's search committee, said Ebenezer was impressed with the community outreach Warnock's church practices in a tough inner-city neighborhood. The committee was also struck by how inclusive his church

was: Women, youth and senior citizens all had important roles in the church.

"He has a very even-keel personality," Pickens said. "He doesn't seem like one to fly off the handle quickly."

Khalid Smith, a member of Warnock's former church in Baltimore, said Warnock attracted more young people to the 800-member church in Baltimore with his dynamic leadership.

"His management style is very empowering," Smith said. "He is the antithesis of a micromanager. He casts the visions and dialogues with you, but the methodology is really up to the individual."

One concern that Warnock had to address with Ebenezer's search committee was his marital status. He is single. It is an unspoken tradition in the black church that a pastor has to be married before he lands a church. Married pastors, so the thinking goes, reduce the chances of scandal.

Warnock said he faced that issue head-on with Ebenezer's search committee. He told them he had served in several churches and there had been no scandals. "I told them I very much want to be married," Warnock said. "But I made a decision years ago that I would never get married in order to secure a church. I take marriage and the church too seriously to trivialize them."

Father's legacy  
Warnock learned this Father's Day that he became Ebenezer's new senior pastor. The church's search committee called him at home in Baltimore to tell him that members had voted to select him. Warnock called his father on the same day. "He was very, very happy."

Now that he is a man, their roles have been reversed -- the son is now teaching his

father about the Bible. When Warnock returns to the dinner table now to visit his father, he tells his father about what he's learned at seminary through his reading.

His father isn't threatened by what his son shares, says Valencia Warnock, who watches her brother and father get into impassioned discussions that seem to last for hours.

"Dad would say, 'That's wonderful. I never thought about that,' " she said. "They feed off each other. I would wonder, when is this conversation going to be over."

Jonathan Warnock is now 88 years old. His physical strength, his eyesight and his mind sometimes fail him. Warnock's mother, Verlene, is still at his side. "You could walk into his house right now and he's just sitting by himself, reading the Bible," Valencia Warnock said. "He still seems to find something new in there, something that gives him strength."

When asked about the famous photograph that sits in the lobby of Ebenezer, Warnock said he often asked how he's going to deal with the expectations of preaching in the same pulpit that King once stood in. But he's already had the experience of following a powerful preacher -- his father.

"Have you ever seen a toddler try to walk into their daddy's shoes?" Warnock said. "It's cute but they don't get too far. I would much rather stand on the shoulders than walk in the shoes. You recognize the magnitude of the legacy, but there is only one Martin Luther King."

The Rev. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock will become the new senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church on Sunday. Pictured is the new sanctuary, across the street from the historic Ebenezer

Baptist Church on Auburn Avenue.

"It's great that churches have soup kitchens, but that's not enough," the Rev. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock said. Preachers need to challenge the root causes of economic injustice, he said.  
Graphic

THE REV. RAPHAEL  
GAMALIEL WARNOCK

Age: 36

Marital status: Single

Birthplace: Savannah

Family: Both mother and father were Pentecostal preachers. Warnock has 11 siblings.

Education: Warnock graduated from Morehouse College cum laude in 1991. He holds a Master of Divinity and a Master of Philosophy from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He is currently a candidate for a Ph.D. in the field of systematic theology at Union. His research has led him to write about the ministries of Martin Luther King Jr. and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran who was executed by the Nazis in the closing days of World War II for his opposition to Adolf Hitler. Experience: Senior pastor of the Douglas Memorial Community Church, Baltimore. He served 10 years -- as the youth pastor, then assistant pastor -- at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City. He was licensed and ordained at Sixth Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham.

What's in a name?  
Warnock's father named him after the archangel, Raphael. His middle name, Gamaliel, comes from one of Judaism's great rabbis, who is briefly mentioned in the New Testament as a former teacher of the Apostle Paul.

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# Celebration of freedom

Preacher speaks of current injustices

By Dena Levitz | Staff Writer  
Monday, January 2, 2006

An Atlanta preacher borrowed Monday from Augusta's most famous singer, telling hundreds celebrating the 143rd anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, "I feel good."

"Not because I've embraced a religion of escapism, but because I serve a mighty God. That God has brought us a long way," the Rev. Raphael Warnock, the senior pastor of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, told those at Tabernacle Baptist Church.



**Ron Cockerille/Staff**

The Rev. Warnock, the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, speaks to the congregation.

[Click photo for options](#)

In a politically charged glance at history, he outlined examples from Jim Crow laws to the current Bush administration - each time met by chants of "God brought us through."

"Even in an uncertain future, we know one thing: If God is with us, we shall be free," the keynote speaker went on to say.

The service, organized by the Augusta Lincoln League, has become a traditional way to "start the year on a spiritual high," according to the service group's president, the Rev. Ethoin Rowe.

Signed Jan. 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation declared freedom for black slaves in Confederate states.

It was not until December 1865, though, that slavery was put to an end with the 13th Amendment.

Now, almost a century and a half later, the Rev. Warnock said blacks' civil liberties are again in danger because of the government's use of surveillance without court orders and the Voter ID law, which he said is being used in the same discriminatory way that literacy tests once were to keep blacks away from the polls.

"There are great challenges in front of us, but we ought to believe in ourselves and believe in our abilities to save this nation as we have done so many times before," he said. "Hold on to the faith, because we've come this far by faith, haven't we?"

Also during the event, Willie Mays, who had served as Augusta's interim mayor until his Dec. 6 defeat, was

honored as Citizen of the Year.

"I'm saying something I shouldn't be saying, but he's the man that should be mayor right now," the Rev. Rowe noted in handing over the award.

Another speaker from the pulpit, state Rep. Quincy Murphy, told the congregation that generations after the War Between the States, the country is still engaged in civil war - this time between the haves and the have-nots and the Democrats and Republicans.

"The challenge of the 20th century was color; It's still color - green," the legislator said. "It's time to come together and embrace a new spirit of community and collaboration."

Reach Dena Levitz at (706) 823-3339 or [dena.levitz@augustachronicle.com](mailto:dena.levitz@augustachronicle.com).

*From the Tuesday, January 3, 2006  
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Chronicle*



The Rev. Raphael G. Warnock (above) wasn't born when Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. stirred the social consciousness of America while pastoring Atlanta's historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. But the legacy of King, his father and other noted pastors are shaping his course as the new leader of the 2,200-member congregation.

## Ebenezer's New Pastor Says He'll Resurrect Activist Spirit of Church Under MLK

Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2006

By: Sherrel Wheeler Stewart,  
BlackAmericaWeb.com

The Rev. Raphael G. Warnock wasn't even born when Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. stirred the social consciousness of America while pastoring Atlanta's historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. But the legacy of King, his father and other noted pastors are shaping his course as the new leader of the 2,200-member congregation.

"In 1935, Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. led a powerful voter registration drive here in Atlanta. He was a preacher and an activist. Martin Luther King Jr. stood on his shoulders. I am proud to stand on their shoulders," Warnock **told BlackAmericaWeb.com**. "I don't see this as pressure, but rather a privilege."

Warnock, who was officially installed last Sunday as Ebenezer's pastor, follows a line of ministers at the church who have preached the gospel while addressing social concerns. He was selected following the retirement of the Rev. Joseph Lawrence Roberts, who served as Ebenezer pastor for 30 years.

In April, the 36-year-old Warnock organized several buses to take Katrina survivors from Atlanta back to New Orleans to vote in the mayoral election. And in June, the buses and the survivors returned for the run-off election.

"On April 1, I went down to march with Rev. Jesse Jackson because we wanted all New Orleans residents to have equal access to the ballot. Standing on that bridge, I began to think about what Ebenezer could do to help," Warnock said.

Just last week, the Savannah, Ga., native took issue on television news with two Georgia representatives who worked in Congress to delay passage of reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"This is just another example of the racist south trying again to raise its ugly head," Warnock later told BlackAmericaWeb.com in an interview. "It's a disgrace, and there is no place for it in our society today."

The son of two Pentecostal preachers, Warnock said addressing social and political issues is part of his calling to the ministry.

"I don't understand these preachers who build a wall between politics and ministry. The gospel is political, it's social, and it's spiritual," he said.

In the week leading to his installation, Ebenezer Baptist hosted a forum entitled "Poverty and the Faith Community After Katrina," featuring author, historian and pastor Michael Eric Dyson.

Poverty surrounds the church and the M.L. King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, which sits across the street on Auburn Avenue. The poor often approach visitors asking for money or help. Many of the buildings have been abandoned or are in disrepair.

A new \$45 million redevelopment is planned for the area which, before integration, was bustling with black-owned restaurants, shops and other businesses.

New plans call for maintaining some of the historical character of Auburn Avenue while bringing condos and more businesses into the community.

"Katrina forced America to look at the face of poverty throughout the country," Warnock said. "The faith

community has to take part in addressing this issue and keeping it before the public."

The Rev. Calvin Butts III, pastor of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church, maintains that Warnock will be as strong leader for Ebenezer, the city and the country.

"I'm proud today, and I'm excited because I know what you all are getting with Raphael Warnock," Butts said during the installation sermon. For 10 years, Warnock worked at the famed church and was mentored by Butts, an educator and activist.

While at Morehouse, Warnock often spent summers as an intern at Birmingham's Sixth Avenue Baptist Church. There he was mentored by the late Rev. John T. Porter, a former pulpit associate of King, who was jailed along with the civil rights leader.

After graduating Morehouse in 1991, Warnock went on to receive both a master's degree and a doctorate from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

"God has always had his hand on Raphael. He's been at the right places at the right time to learn from and be mentored by the best," civil rights attorney Byron Perkins, **told BlackAmericaWeb.com**. Perkins was among lawyers representing plaintiffs in the 2000 Coca Cola employment discrimination case.

"When I think about the role Daddy King played in the election of Jimmy Carter, I can't help but think of the influence Raphael Warnock will have as a preacher of the gospel, with a strong social and political compass."



**RELIGION**

## Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church Installs New Pastor



▲ In keeping with West African traditions, African Tribal Elders Dr. Charles Brown (l) and Nana Birago Asanetewaa oversee the investiture of the Rev. Dr. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock.

in the 120-year history of the famed church where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was ordained as a minister. "I'm coming to the Ebenezer church, 'America's Freedom Church,' at a time where we're still fighting to preserve the voting rights act, America's caught in an unjust war with Iraq, and the gap between the rich and the poor is growing wider. When one looks at these issues, it is clear that Martin Luther King's struggles with the three evils: racism, war, and poverty, is

church's West African heritage, part of the four-day festivities included an African enstoolment ceremony where Rev. Warnock gave his oath of commitment and was celebrated in dance and song. An enstoolment ceremony is a sacred part of installing new African Chiefs, so the process was done to connect Warnock with the pastoral legacy before him.

The Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III of Abyssinian Baptist Church of New York

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City preached the sermon at the installment ceremony. Others who participated in the festivities surrounding the installation were the Rev. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, Ambassador Andrew Young and Rev. Dr. Carolyn Ann Knight.


The Rev. Warnock, 36, is a cum laude graduate of Morehouse College, and received two masters and a doctorate degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He served six years as youth pastor and four years as

assistant pastor at Abyssinian Baptist, then 4½ years as Senior Pastor of Baltimore's Douglas Memorial Community Church before coming to Ebenezer.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was ordained at Ebenezer in 1948 and acted as an associate pastor for six years before leaving to pastor in Alabama. King came back to serve as co-pastor to his father, who was the pastor of the church for 44 years, from 1960 until his assassination in 1968. □

## RELIGION

JUNE 21-25, 2006



The Reverend  
Dr. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock  
Senior Pastor

# *"Heritage to Horizon from Horizon to Higher Ground"*



**The Rev. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock, Ph.D.**  
Senior Pastor  
Ebenezer Baptist Church  
Atlanta, Georgia

407 Auburn Avenue, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30312

The Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock, serves as the Senior Pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, spiritual home of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A native of Savannah, Georgia and the son of two Pentecostal-Holiness ministers, Rev. Warnock preached his first sermon entitled, "It's Time I Be About My Father's Business" at age eleven. Having been licensed and ordained at the historic Sixth Avenue Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama, he served for six years as the Youth Pastor and four years as the Assistant Pastor of the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church of New York City-also one of the nation's leading congregations, led by the likes of The Rev. Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., The Rev. Dr. Samuel Dewitt Proctor and now The Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts. Before coming to Ebenezer, Pastor Warnock served for 4 ½ years as the Senior Pastor of Baltimore's Douglas Memorial Community Church.

Dr. Warnock graduated from Morehouse College cum laude in 1991, receiving the B.A. degree in psychology. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree, a Master of Philosophy degree, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Union Theological Seminary, New York City, where he graduated with honors and distinctions. His research interests and writing have included a distinguished Master's Thesis and on-going research on the activist ministries of two Twentieth Century Martyrs: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dietrich Bonhoeffer and their challenges to the church and the world in their time and ours. His Ph.D. dissertation is entitled, "The Mission of the Black Church: A Discussion Among Black Theologians and Black Pastors."

In 1989, Rev. Warnock authored Educating Teens For Positive Peer Intervention, which today still serves as Georgia's official curriculum guide for teen peer programs aimed at reducing the State's teenage pregnancy rate. Recognizing his exceptional work in the area of teenage pregnancy prevention and advocacy on behalf of youth, The Honorable Joseph Frank Harris, former Governor of Georgia, made him the youngest person ever to be appointed to the Southern Regional Task Force on Infant Mortality, a study commission comprised of governor appointees from seventeen southern states.

While Rev. Warnock's work and activism have been local, his vision has always been global. As a student at Morehouse College, he organized and served as the keynote speaker at a Peace Vigil protesting George Bush's initiation of a War against Iraq on January 15th, the birthday of a peacemaker. Over 2,000 students attended this event, which received national press coverage. During the 1992 Democratic Convention in New York City, he coordinated, under the auspices of Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) and the Abyssinian Church, an alternative People's Convention, in memory of Fannie Lou Hamer, the Mississippi sharecropper who told the nation in 1968 she was "sick and tired of being sick and tired." In 1995, he was part of a 15-member delegation to Haiti, following the 1991 military coup and the United States' return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He and other delegates later met with members of Congress, U.S. Embassy and State Department officials, lobbying for better U.S. policy toward this small budding democracy in our own hemisphere. His leadership and advocacy has been further demonstrated through his work with The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. Rev. Warnock is a graduate of the Leadership Program sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Committee and a graduate of the Summer Leadership Institute of Harvard University. The November 1999 issue of Ebony Magazine listed him as one of Thirty Leaders Of The Future.

A 1993 recipient of Union Theological Seminary's coveted William H. Hudnut Preaching Award, Rev. Warnock is sought after as a preacher and scholar. He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and various other civic and social organizations. He has received the Benjamin Elijah Mays Fellowship For Ministry from the Fund for Theological Education, the Thomas and Jeanetta Kilgore Theological Scholarship Award, Associated Black Charity's "Good Shepherd Award" and a host of other fellowships, honors and citations, noting his abiding commitment to Christian ministry, disciplined scholarship and diligent struggle on behalf of the oppressed.

**For additional information, please contact Glenda Boone at 404-688-7300, extension 0 or visit [www.historicebenezer.org](http://www.historicebenezer.org)**



Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia was founded in 1886 during the Reconstruction Era in the South. The Rev. John A. Parker, born into slavery, was the founder and first pastor. The original church was a box like structure on Airline Street, NE. The Rev. Alfred Daniel Williams succeeded The Rev. Parker on March 14, 1894. One of his first achievements was to add approximately 65 members to the church during the first year. His next achievement was to build a church on McGruder Street. That church later became known as Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

The membership moved from there to Bell and Gilmore Streets. From there the membership worshipped in a storefront structure at 444 Edgewood Avenue from 1912 to 1914 while the basement of the structure of the building now known as the Heritage Sanctuary at 407 Auburn Avenue was under construction. In 1914 the congregation moved into the basement of that facility and in 1922 the sanctuary was completed. Adam Daniel Williams married Jennie Parks and their daughter, Alberta Christine Williams, married Martin Luther King, Sr. To this union were born Christine King Farris, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Alfred Daniel Williams King.



Washington High School, the first high school in Atlanta for African Americans, was built in 1924 through the persistent efforts of Alfred Daniel Williams. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. led the successful effort to equalize teachers' salaries in Atlanta and was instrumental in getting African Americans registered to vote long before the Civil Rights Movement. In 1960, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. joined his father as Co-Pastor of Ebenezer. It was through his worldwide prophetic ministry that Ebenezer developed a new ecumenical and international posture. The Rev. Alfred Daniel Williams King, as Co-Pastor, founded Ebenezer's Children's Chapel in 1969, dedicated to the spiritual enrichment, biblical education and oratorical training of young people ages five through 12 years. In 1971, The Rev. Dr. Otis Moss became the third Co-Pastor of Ebenezer.



When The Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. retired in 1975, after 44 years of service, The Rev. Dr. Joseph Lawrence Roberts Jr. began his ministry of outreach, uplifted faith and stewardship as Ebenezer's fourth pastor. During his 30 year tenure, more than 2,000 members were added to the church. Of his many accomplishments, most notable is the building of the Horizon Sanctuary, which was dedicated in 1999.



He launched expansive community-oriented programs, including a teen mother's ministry, a tutoring program, counseling, a senior's day care center and a food cooperative. Ebenezer's Adult Day Care and Rehabilitation Program was instituted in 1976. It became incorporated as a non-profit health and social agency in 1986, changing its name to the Intergenerational Resource Center. It continues to provide recreational day care to the disabled and to senior citizens.

Standing on this firm foundation, The Rev. Dr. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock began his pastorate of the Ebenezer Church on October 1, 2005. Dr. Warnock is a pastor with deep scholarly interests and a liberationist understanding of the gospel. Moreover, he comes with rich experience in urban ministry contexts, having served an Associate Minister at Birmingham's Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, Assistant Pastor of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church and Senior Pastor of Baltimore's Douglas Memorial Community Church. His dedication and commitment to the teachings of Christ and concern for the community provide a holistic ministry perspective on the work of the church. This is setting the tone for a ministry that evangelizes the sinner, champions the work of social justice, embraces the arts in worship and lifts up the name of Jesus Christ in bold and creative ways. With soul stirring sermons and great vision, Pastor Warnock has picked-up the mantle and is leading our church family to a new phase: *From Heritage to Horizon-From Horizon to Higher Ground*. Under Pastor Warnock's leadership, we are pressing forward toward the high mark, which is in Christ Jesus.

