

*Bethlehem Celebrates the  
Retirement of*

*Reverend Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine*



**A 40-Year**

**Journey of  
Pastoral Faith**

**June 8 & 9, 2024**

Financial Harmony  
Tax Resolution LLC

10504 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito

*"Your IRS debt has nothing  
to do with the goodness  
of your soul!" –Smiley*

Visit [financial-harmony.com](http://financial-harmony.com).  
We can help you reclaim your life!



Smiley Nelson

## Recent Settlements:

### Offer in Compromise

Debt \$385,812 settled for \$11,844

Debt \$227,011 settled for \$10,245

Debt \$112,489 settled for \$1,132

### Audits/Late Filing

Debt \$103,870 settled for \$0.00

Debt \$64,811 settled for Refund of \$308

Debt \$78,017 settled for \$13,905

Recently he helped a client file 14 years of back taxes and set up installment agreements. Afterward the client said to Smiley, "I now feel like I am a member of the human race."

## Smiley holds the following designations:

- Enrolled Agent, certified to represent clients before all administrative levels of the IRS. The IRS gives this designation to qualified applicants
- Fellow of the National Tax Practice Institute, certified as an expert in taxpayers' rights and tax rules from the National Association of Enrolled Agents (NAEA)
- Certified Tax Resolution Specialist

When Smiley isn't busy solving clients' tax problems, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Julia. He also loves singing with the Oakland Symphony Chorus, playing the guitar, writing children's songs, and having soulful conversations. Ralph, who is a vegan, loves to cook and has an obsession with creating acronyms.

Smiley Nelson: 510-828-6215

[taxhelp@financial-harmony.com](mailto:taxhelp@financial-harmony.com), [financial-harmony.com](http://financial-harmony.com).

# A 40-Year Journey of Pastoral Faith

...the 18-year journey not only began for Dr. Bernstine, it also began for me. I was Dr. Bernstine's first new member 18 years ago...The Journey Began!

To the Committee, I thank you! You all gave of your time and talents. You put up with all my requests with no hesitation or resistance, I know I'm not the easiest person to work with. THANK YOU!

To "MY" Co-Chair, Sister Bessie Jeanne McKindley, you are THE BEST! I owe you a debt of gratitude. I know you haven't slept in 6 months, and you made sure I didn't sleep either and it will be a few more months before we return to our regular sleeping schedule LOL. You kept me focused on track and most importantly God Centered.

Here we are today "Retirement Day" it has been a privilege, a pleasure and an honor to chair "A 40-Year Journey of Pastoral Faith." I'm not sure what I did or didn't do to be given such a charge, thank you Pastor and First Lady!

I pray God is pleased...

*Make It Happen Captain!*

Lisa M. Stevenson-Johnson, Chair

**Retirement Celebration  
Chair: Lisa Johnson  
Co-Chair: Bessie J. McKindley  
with Pastor Bernstine**



## Pastor Bernstine's Retirement Celebration Committee



**Left to right—front row: Bessie McKindley, Pastor Bernstine & Erma Burnett  
Second row—left to right: Jimmy Stuart, Glenda Roberts, Jackie Marston,  
Lady Diana, Lisa Johnson, Mattie Davis, Sheilia Windham, Demetriss Davis &  
Mary Savoie; Not pictured: DeWanda Joseph, Dr. Carole McKindley-Alvarez &  
Al Long**



Dear Alvin,

As we gather to celebrate your remarkable 40-year pastoral journey, my heart overflows with gratitude and admiration for the dedication, wisdom, and love you have poured into your ministry. Reflecting on the countless lives you've touched, the communities you've strengthened, and the faith you've deepened, I am filled with awe.

Your unwavering commitment to serving others has been a beacon of light and hope, not just to our congregation but to everyone blessed to cross your path. As your wife, I've had the privilege of witnessing your relentless pursuit of spreading God's word and your profound impact on guiding others towards spiritual growth and resilience.

Today, as we turn the page to this next chapter, know that I am committed to our next adventures.

Here's to discovering new joys, embracing further opportunities for growth, and continuing to share life's blessings together. Thank you for being an extraordinary husband, leader, and friend. Your legacy is not just in the sermons you preached or the lessons you taught; it lives in the hearts of those you've inspired, encouraged, and loved.

With all my love and deepest respect

Diana



## *Congratulations, Pastor Bernstine*



My Pastor, My Colleague, and My Friend.

I'm grateful God placed you as the shepherd of BMBC. Through your leadership, my journey from religion to spirituality began. I came to understand the necessity to have an intimate love relationship with the Lord; establishing a new way for me to engage in my spiritual journey. I felt the freedom to wrestle with the text and challenge old theology rooted in oppression and marginalization. My spiritual light was ignited!! My spiritual senses sharpened. No longer bound to the ways religion was used to compartmentalize, silence, invisibilize, and objectify women.

I found my voice. As our shepherd you stood, audaciously, to challenge the role of women in our church. You joined God in His work and created spaces for us to be seen, heard, and valued. For that I say, "Thank you!". I am proud to be a product of your BMBC legacy. I am because of you.

Beyond being my Pastor, you became my friend. I've been privileged to walk in the both/and spaces with you. Learning and leaning on each other. We've challenged each other. We've created with each other. We've laughed with each other. We've annoyed each other. LOL We've grieved with each other. Now, we get to celebrate with each other. I celebrate your 40 years of pastoring and a retirement well deserved.

I thank God that you trusted His leading. I know your path with BMBC has been filled with a myriad of experiences. I pray you take with you ALL of it because I know it was God's seasoning over your life in preparation for where you will join Him next.

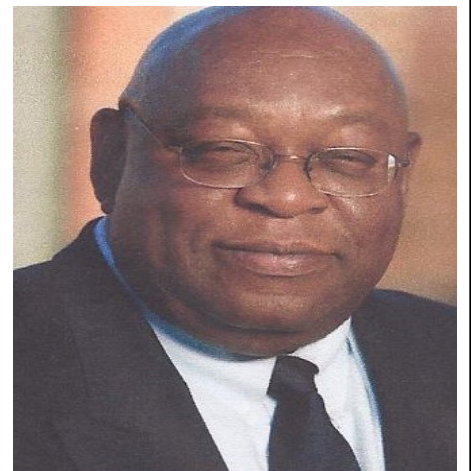
Reverend Dr. Carole McKindley-Alvarez  
Pastor-Elect



**Reverend Orenzia Bernstine & Family**



**Maxi Hismith, Shirlee Stewart & Pastor Bernstine**



**Daniel Bernstine  
BMBC Scholarship Fund**

**F  
A  
M  
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Y**



## *Reverend Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine*

The Reverend Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine is a fourth generation Baptist preacher. He was born in Oakland, California, receiving his primary education in the Oakland Public School system. It was seen quite early that Alvin had promise, and was accelerated by skipping the second grade. He went from the kindergarten to the second grade. However his academic promise was frustrated by family struggles and the drama of the Sixties. As a result, he barely completed the requirements for a high school diploma.

After several years as an entrepreneur, he decided to return to school in Sales and Marketing at Laney College, Oakland, CA. In 1977, he responded to God's call to ministry and radically changed his interests. He transferred to Bishop College, Dallas, Texas, graduating in 1981 at the top of his class, Magna Cum Laude. He continued studies at Vanderbilt Divinity

School, of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. In 1984, he received the Masters of Divinity Degree, with a concentration on **Preaching and Biblical Studies**, receiving the distinction of the *Florence Conwell Preaching Honor*. He furthered his studies as a *Dr. Samuel Dewitt Proctor Fellow* at the *United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio*. In 1995 he received the *Doctor of Ministry Degree*, with his dissertation project focusing on **"Preaching that Enhances the African American Family: Homilies on the Jacob Narratives."** In 2011, Dr. Bernstine completed studies and received a graduate degree in *Psychology and Counseling*, graduating in 2012.

Dr. Bernstine served as the *Director of Family Ministry* at the *Sunday School Publishing Board* from 1991 to 1995. While employed with the *Sunday School Publishing Board*, he wrote numerous journal articles on *Family Ministry-related issues* and manuals to assist Christian education. He also submitted for publication *As For Me and My House: Redemptive Words for the Black Family*. His most recent publications have been self-published, **Ministry in a Disaster Zone: The Seven Cross Sayings of Jesus, A Ministry that Save Lives: Sermons and Reflections on Ministry in A Challenging Context, Orientation for Children Who want To Love Jesus, Give Power to the People: The Congregational Enablement Model Revisited, Church Through the Roof: Re-Storying Your Church's Ministry** and **As For Me and My House, Too: Some More Redemptive Words for the African American Family, The Evening and The Morning: A Liberation Primer of the Creation Story**. During the COVID19 pandemic, he released **Part 1 of Hope Me, Lord: Prophetic Invitations**, releasing Part 2, January 2022. This year, he wrote and published a preaching workbook, *Preaching Sermons that Matter: A Preaching Workbook Based on the Dialectical Preaching Model of Samuel Dewitt Proctor*, and the third and final installment of **Hope Us. Lord: The Prophetic Ministry of Jesus and Paul**.

Dr. Bernstine has been privileged to serve as pastor of three wonderful congregations. He served the *Olivet Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee*, from 1984 to 1993. While there, he doubled the church's ministry budget and led the church to purchase and establish the **Whiteside-Parks Family Life Center**, the first family life center operated by a black church in Nashville.

From 1993 to 2006, he served the *Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York*. He led the *Mount Lebanon Baptist Church* in the establishment of relevant ministries, a major building restoration project and in the year-long celebration of a century of Christian service, in 2005.

Dr. Bernstine has been given the tremendous honor to currently serve the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, which represents the primary Christian community in which his migrating family was nurtured. His immediate predecessor, Reverend Dr. Abraham Henry Newman, was used by God to spearhead Pastor Bernstine's educational pursuits at Bishop College. Bethlehem has enthusiastically embraced his vision of "Church Through the Roof!" He is leading the congregation in developing relevant ministries that impact families in congregation and community: Brothers of Bethlehem, Sisters of Bethlehem, Youth of Bethlehem, Griefshares, Foster Kinship/Parent Training, Celebrate Recovery/Cocaine Anonymous, and one of the most amazing Church School experiences, Christian Empowerment Hour. He provided the vision for the impactful 7:14 Prayer Campaign, a community-led response to the tragic killing of police in Oakland.

He is the founder and instructor of The School of Prophets, a ministry to enhance effective preaching; Visiting Professor of Preaching at American Baptist Seminary of the West (renamed Berkley School of Theology), Faculty Member of Leadership Institute of Allen Temple Baptist Church; the Dean of the Bay Area Academy of Responsible Preaching; Past Moderator of Progressive Baptist Missionary Educational District Association, Clergy Coordinator for CCISCO and Richmond's Ceasefire/Lifelines to Healing, an anti-gun violence initiative to save the lives of young African American men. He has been a member of the Brotherhood of Elders, a mentoring cohort for at-risk youth, and served a term as a Board Member of Greater Richmond Improvement Programs. A special space for service is Faculty Facilitator for the Foster Kinship Care Program of Contra Costa County College, specializing in Trauma-Informed Care. He has served as Dean for the Richmond Baptist Minister's Conference, providing relevant preaching skills to Richmond ministers.

In 2011 Dr. Bernstine was honored twice with citations bearing the name of Martin Luther King, Jr. – the City of Richmond cited him with the MLK, Jr., Civic Award, and Morehouse College, Atlanta, inducted him into the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Board of Preachers. In 2013, he was privileged to facilitate the workshop, Preaching for Prophetic Action, at the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Pastor Bernstine attended the White House National African American Pastors Convening for Pastors and the White House Working Together for the Common Good on Friday, March 23, 2012. He joined President Obama, Senior White House and Obama Administration officials for a day-long briefing on how the Obama Administration is impacting issues of concern within the African American community, and how to partner with the Obama Administration in moving forward. He has had the tremendous opportunity to participate in the Million Man March and be in attendance for both Inaugurals of President Barak Obama.

As a preacher he continues to receive invitations to preach in some of the nation's most celebrated pulpits, recently preached at the imminent Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia; Friendship Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina; Third New Hope Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan; Emmanuel Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York; Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, New York;; Brookhollow Baptist Church, Houston, Texas; Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, California; and featured preacher for the Pastor's Division of the National Baptist Congress. He is a staff instructor of the Pastor's and Minister's Division of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

On August 1, 2020, he married Reverend Diana Becton, the first woman and first African American to serve as District Attorney of Contra Costa County. Their blended family includes four sons, two daughters, and seven grandchildren. He and Diana visited Ghana and Africa this year (2024), and he recently shared tours of Seoul, Korea, Manila, and the Philippines with special friends.

Dr. Bernstine is an avid swimmer, budding golf player, chess player, and bass guitar student, and he still finds time to enjoy life through travel, family, and spending time with grandchildren. His favorite pastime is reading.

# PASTOR BERNSTINE'S TEACHING SPACES AND PLACES

Organizing Director of Department of Christian Education: Westwood Baptist Church, University Center, Nashville, TN

Stone River District Association, Nashville, TN: Congress of Christian Education

Nashville City District Association, Nashville, TN: Congress of Christian Education

Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN: Kelly Miller Smith Institute

Tennessee Missions and Educational Convention, TN: The Negro Spirituals and Their Meaning for Today, Lane College, Jackson, TN Congress of Christian Education

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Nashville, TN: Leadership Institute

Peace Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO: Family Life Conference

Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship: Annual Leadership Conference

National Baptist Convention of America: Congress of Christian Education

South Carolina State Convention: Congress of Christian Education

Texas Baptist Missionary and Education Convention: Congress of Christian Education

L.K. Williams Minister's Conference, Dallas, TX

Antioch Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia: Christian Education Institute

Michigan Mission and Educational Convention: Congress of Christian Education

Third New Hope Baptist Church, Detroit, MI: Church Institute

El Bethel Baptist Church, Detroit, MI : Church Institute

Pastors and Leadership Conference, Intl.: Detroit, MI & Nassau, Bahamas

National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Congress of Christian Education: 1989 to 2000 & Pastor's and Minister's Division 2001 to 2023

Madison County Missionary Baptist Association, Camden, Mississippi: Family Life Conference

Bahamas Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention

Mission Baptist Church, Nassau, Bahamas: Educational Institute

# **PASTOR BERNSTINE'S TEACHING SPACES AND PLACES (CONTINUED)**

Empire Baptist State Convention, New York: Congress of Christian Education

Eastern Baptist District Association, New York: Congress of Christian Education

Grace Baptist Church, Mount Vernon, NY: Family Life Conference

Abyssinian Baptist Church, NY, NY: Family Life Conference

Saint Luke Baptist Church, NY, NY: Bible Institute

Thessalonica Baptist Church, Bronx, NY: Christian Education Conference

Walker Memorial Baptist Church, Bronx, NY: Men's Retreat

So Send I You, Inc.: Bible Study Facilitator

Connecticut Missionary and Educational Baptist Convention: Congress of Christian Education

Mount Airy Baptist Church, New Haven, Connecticut: Christian Education Institute

California State Baptist Convention: Congress of Christian Education

Progressive Baptist Missionary and Educational District Association, Bay Area

Home & Foreign Mission District Association, Bay Area

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Redwood City, CA: Men's Retreat

Double Rock Baptist Church, San Francisco, CA: Christian Education Institute

Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Fairfield, CA: Bible Institute

Pilgrim Baptist Church, San Mateo (Now in Castro Valley): Men's Retreat, Family Life Conference

Mount Zion District Association, Bay Area: Congress of Christian Education

Calvary Hill Community Church, San Francisco, CA: Seminary Extension, Leadership Conference

New Hope Baptist Church, Richmond, CA: Discipleship Conference: Christian Education Institute

True Vine Church, Oakland CA: Christian Education Institute

San Francisco Baptist Minister's Conference: Leadership Institute

# PASTOR BERNSTINE'S TEACHING SPACES AND PLACES (CONTINUED)

Foster Kinship Care, Richmond, CA: Trauma Informed Care

Foster Kinship Care, Richmond, CA: Non-Violent Communication

Youth Services Bureau, Richmond, CA: Non-Violent Communication

Contra Costa College, Richmond, CA: Visiting Professor - Psychology

Leadership Institute of Allen Temple, Oakland, CA

Bay Area Academy of Responsible Preaching, LIAT, Oakland, CA: Homiletics & Prophetic Preaching

Bay Area Academy of Responsible Preaching: Dean/Homiletics Instructor

Contra Costa County Interfaith Supporting Congregations Organization (C.C.I.S.C.O.)

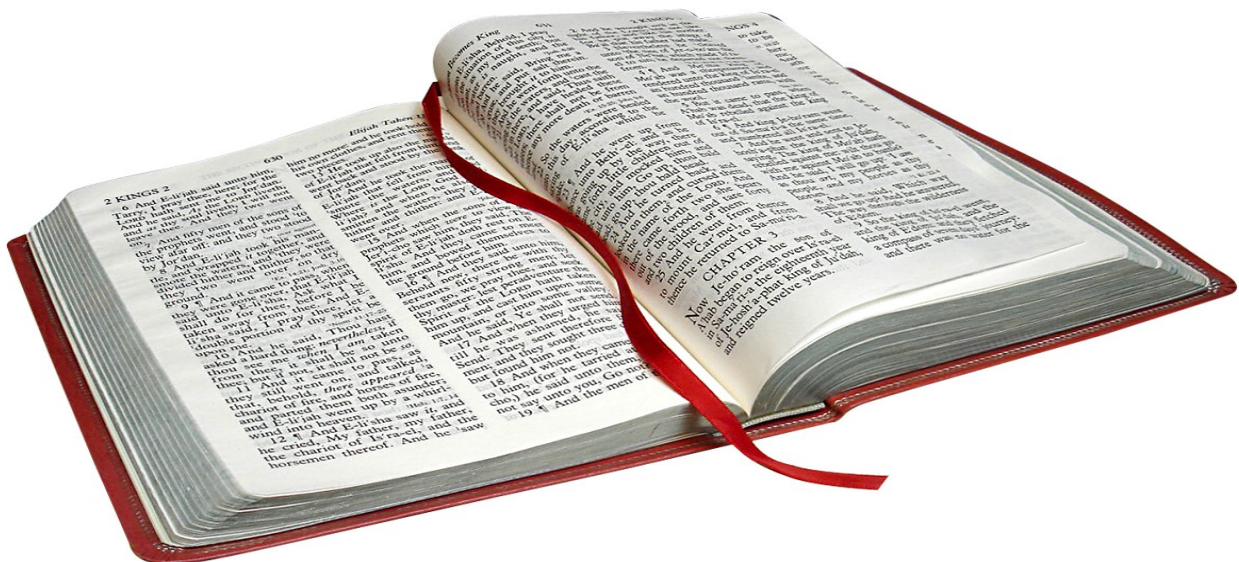
P.I.C.O California

P.I.C.O. International, New Orleans, LA

P.I.C.O. Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference: Prophetic Preaching

Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana: Compelling Preaching Project/Legacy of African American Preaching



# **BMBC DEACON MINISTRY**

**The Deacon Ministry of Bethlehem MBC has been honored to serve with you the last 18 years. We salute you for a job well done in leading our congregation. May you continue to experience the great blessings of God in your retirement.**

**Willis Burnett**

**Senior Deacon**



**Front Row—Left to Right:**

**Deacons Willis Burnett & Willie J. McNeal**

**Back Row—Left to Right:**

**Deacons Ken Wells, Sheila Windham & Jimmy Stuart**

## THE SISTERS OF BETHLEHEM



Front row-seated left to right

First Lady Diana, Bessie McKindley, Irene Thomas, Mary Woolfolk, Ollie Dunn

Middle row: Patricia Douglas, Eloise Hill, Nina Bernstine, Lynn Sims, Gail Price, Erma Burnett,  
Karen Thomas, Brianna Robinson, Renee Lipsky, Saniyah Elliott, Mia McDaniel, Sandra Overstreet, Mattie Davis

Back row: Valerie Lloyd, Louise Stewart, Estelle Paysinger-Hill, Janet Simington-Cooks,  
LaTanya Edington, Jackie Ervin, DeWanda Joseph, Katherine Bynum, Sheila Windham,  
Cathy Anderson, Mary Savoie, Glenda Roberts & Jackie Marston

**Thank you Pastor Bernstine for your support and  
Congratulations on your retirement!**



Seated left to right, same as top photo with Pastor Bernstine seated on the floor

# Congratulations

on your Retirement.

Best wishes on the next chapter.

The Board of Trustees



Mel Davis, Brenda Williams, Pamela Green Stuart, Pastor Bernstine,  
Sandra Overstreet, Glenda Roberts and Ray Ousborn  
Not pictured: Carolyn Dunn, Financial Secretary

## The Brothers of Bethlehem Salute You!

Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine the best to you on your pastoral retirement.

We will still look forward to seeing you, when possible, at our Brothers  
Breakfast Fellowship and Study. Thank you for your spiritual leadership.





**Left to right: Cathy Anderson, Janet Simington-Cooks, Eloise Hill, Mattie Davis, Sandra Overstreet, Shirley Washington, Jackie Ervin, Sheila Windham & Demetriss Davis**

**Congratulations, Reverend Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine on your retirement and 40 Year Journey of Pastoral Faith. This is a remarkable achievement and testimony to the enduring dedication unwavering commitment to our church. Sandra Overstreet, Usher President**

## **CONGRATULATIONS, PASTOR BERNSTINE!**

### **The Culinary Committee**



**Left to Right: Demetriss Davis, Mattie Davis, Sandra Overstreet, Shirley Washington, LaTanya Edington & Rosalind Farmer**



## BMBC CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



Congratulations, Pastor Bernstine. We love you.

To Pastor

Thank you for being such a great example of living a life of faith. You're a blessing to our family, our church and our community. We pray for the "greater" that's coming today and all your tomorrows.

We love you.

Minister De Wanda, Sharlee, Kayden & Zaire



# BMBC Media Ministry Team



**Pastor's 2 JJ's—Pre-Pandemic:**

**Audio Media Team: Joseph Alvarez III & Jason Hil, Jr.. with Pastor Bernstine (along with Bessie McKindley—Pro-Presenter & Desktop Publisher) Jason & Junior serve as Backups when schedules allow.**



**Post Pandemic:**

**Left to right: LaTanya Edington, Sheila Windham, Mia McDaniel, Bessie J. McKindley & Janet-Simington-Cooks**

## The Team at Work



**Latanya: Camera, Livestream Tech & Sound Backup Tech**



**Mia: Live Stream, Camera Tech**



**Sheila: Sound, Livestream, Camera Tech**



**Jamet: Sound-in-Training Tech**



**Bessie: Pro-Presenter Tech & Desktop Publisher**



**Katrina: Pro-Presenter Backup Tech**



*Congratulations*  
*Reverend Alvin C.*  
*Bernstine*

*On Your 40 Year Journey of*  
*Pastoral Faith & Transformative Ministry*

May the Lord continue to bless you & your family is our prayer.

We love you.

The Burnetts—Willis & Erma



*In Loving Memory of*  
*Deaconess Ruth Marshall*  
*Remembering Her*

- ◆ Legacy of Faith
- ◆ Honor
- ◆ Loyalty



**Congratulations Pastor Bernstine on your 40 Year Journey of  
Pastoral Faith.**

*Congratulations, Pastor!*  
*In Memory of Our*  
*Loved Ones*



Roosevelt (Rosie)  
 McKindley



Alexandria (Bush)  
 Alvarez



Dr. Carole, Queen Jeanne & Donna



**The McKindley-Roling Family**  
 Left to Right: Jada, Antoinette, Sanaii, Montorio, Jason, Melanie, Michaela, Genevieve, Donna  
 Not Pictured: Gardell & Arianna



**The McKindley-Alvarez Family**  
 Top Row: Lashell, Brianna, Dr. Carole, Joseph III, Joseph Jr. Alexis, Brittini  
 Bottom Row: Israel, A'vontae, Ahlaysia, Brooklyn, Elijah  
 Not Pictured: Amir & Genesis;  
 our Forever Angel: Emrys

Dear Pastor Bernstine,

Our family, Glenda, Lisa, Conrad, RJ, and Brittany wanted to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering love, support, guidance, and spiritual leadership.

Your sermons and pastoral leadership have been a source of inspiration and strength, providing us with the wisdom and encouragement we need in our daily lives. We were truly blessed to have you as our pastor.

Thank you for your kindness, prayers, and the many ways you have touched our lives. Your dedication to your community including our family mean more to us than words can convey.

May God continue to bless you and your ministry. Many blessings as you venture into the next chapter of your life.

With heartfelt thanks,

Glenda, Lisa, Conrad, RJ, and Brittany





*Pastor Bernstine*

**Warm wishes as you RETIRE.**

**We're wishing you all the BEST!**

**Love & prayers always,  
From the Dawson-Douglas-  
Garner-Jackson-Stewart  
Family**

**Jeremiah 1:5**

*What a wonderful Legacy you are leaving!!*



**Congratulations on your retirement. "Church Through the Roof"**

**Irene & Karen Thomas**



**From left to right: Louise Stewart, Barbara Bradford, Karen Thomas, Moise Hopson, Maxine Hismith, Pastor Alvin C. Bernstine, Ethel Brown, Irene Thomas, Gloria Dawson and Helen Keys**



## THE DIVAS



Congratulations, Pastor Bernstine on your retirement. It has been a honor and privilege to serve under your tutelage at BMBC. May God bless you in your next endeavor.



Pastor Bernstine, Congratulations for the 40 years of your Pastoral Journey. I wish to thank you for pouring into my life and lovingly affording me the title of "The Ambassador".

*BMCB Octogenarians, Nonagenarians & Centenarians -  
Dining with Pastor Bernstine, Wednesday 29, 2024  
Lara's Fine Dining, Richmond Marina*



**Left side of table: James D. Easter, Sandra Overstreet, Erma Burnett, Willis Burnett  
Right side of table: Bessie J. McKindley, Cathy Anderson, Irene Thomas, Rosie Lee Fuller  
Head of table: Gloria Dawson & Pastor Bernstine**



**Willis Burnett & Pastor Bernstine**



**Pastor Bernstine, Lara (Owner of Lara's Fine Dining) & Rosie Lee Fuller**



**Cathy Anderson & Bessie J. McKindley**

## Congratulations

### Pastor Alvin C. Bernstine on your retirement!

You have served the community, the country, and all over the world for over 40 years. Wesley and I salute you and we are honored to call you our brother, our friend, and our West Coast pastor. We thank God that our paths crossed many years ago and we are forever grateful for the care and love that was shown to “our” uncle. We are looking forward to more of your preaching and teaching. You just keep getting better.



We love you so much.

Your Detroit Family,

Wesley & Gail Stamps

## THE BLESSING OF BABY AMIR FAISON

(Son of Alexis Alvarez & Adrian Faison)

During Morning Worship Service, Sunday, June 2, 2024



*In Loving Memory*  
*Deacon J. C. Fuller*



**CONGRATULATIONS, PASTOR BERNSTINE ON YOUR RETIREMENT**

**Sister Rosie Lee Fuller & Family**

**Congratulations on your 40 Year Journey of  
Pastoral Faith!**

**The Ennis & Naomi Pruitt Family**





*In Loving Memory of  
Mrs. Mary L. Smith*

“Miss Bethlehem”

**MARY L. SMITH** was an active member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church who supported the pastor and ministries faithfully. She served for many years as president of the Women’s Ministry. She was the Chair of Pastor Bernstine’s Celebratory Installation Committee. She served as the Progressive Baptist Missionary Educational District Association (PBMEDA) Women’s Auxiliary as President, First and Second Vice President; Director of Finance; Chairman of President’s Council and was Hospitality Chair for PBMEDA Parent Body.

Served in the following capacities in the Women’s Auxiliary, California State Baptist Convention (CSBC): Director of Finance, President’s Council Chair, Business & Professional Women 5-District Luncheon Coordinator; Parent Body: Courtesy Chair and Vendor Liaison; Congress: Courtesy Chair and Hotel Liaison.

*Remembering Roosevelt Hopson*

**Congratulations, Pastor Bernstine  
on your 40 Year Journey of  
Pastoral Faith**



**Moise & Arlinda Hopson**

*Reverend Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine  
Thank You for Your 40 Year  
Journey of Pastoral Faith*



**THE ERMESTINE MARTIN  
CHARTIBLE FOUNDATION**



# *Retirement Celebration*

## *Rev. Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine*

**“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship  
the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”**

**Psalms 29:2**



**Bishop Ralph E. Howard, Pastor**

### **Paradise Missionary Baptist Church**

**2595 San Jose Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94112  
(415) 333-0427  
paradiseSF.org**

**Wishing You  
Continued Success  
In This New Season!**


**A Place of Promise, Purpose and Possibilities**

# THE ENCOUNTER CHURCH OF KATY

## CONGRATULATES

Pastor Alvin Bernstine on  
your retirement of 40 years  
of Pastoring & 18 years of  
faithful service to  
The Bethlehem Church.



 The Encounter Church of Katy  
Mark Chapman YMCA 1350 Main St  
Pastor Anthony Wilcots, Sr.  
[www.TECKATY.org](http://www.TECKATY.org)

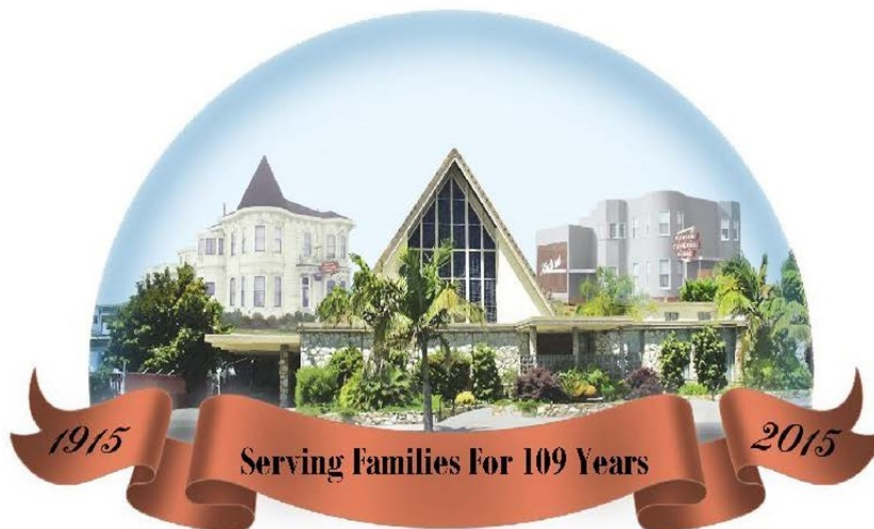


## ACCOLADES

REVEREND DR. ALVIN C. BERNSTINE,  
SENIOR PASTOR OF BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH, RETIRES HAVING UNITED  
RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES TO  
CHRIST AND FAITHFULLY SERVED  
FOR 40 YEARS

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CONGRATULATIONS!



We honor your years of selfless service and celebrate the beginning of your new journey. **Amen!**

**JANA JORDAN-FISHER & THE CLEMONS FAMILY**

**JTAFS**

JANA'S TAX & FINANCIAL SERVICES

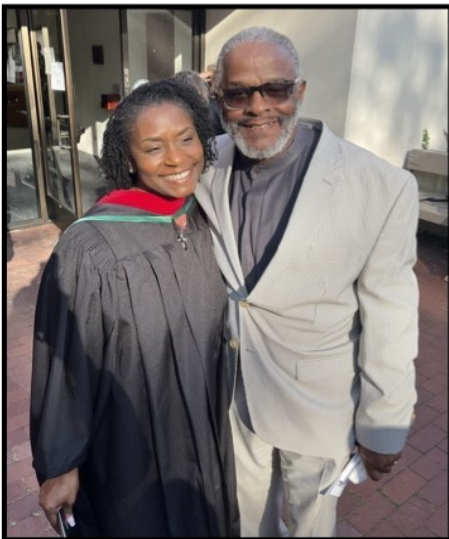
**Jana Jordan, CRTP**

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*Rev. Sundria Sam & Wisdom*

*Rev. Dr. Alvin Christopher Bernstine,  
I call you "Wisdom!"*

Thank you for being an extraordinary man of God! Since the first day I met you, authenticity and sincerity have consistently shown up in your character.

You make the time to be a present Mentor, listening, advising, celebrating, and praying with and for me. You have been there on the mountaintops and in the valleys. You pour into me a wealth of knowledge, ensure I have a healthy dose of understanding, and top it off by checking in on me to see where my words, actions, and deeds land in this world.

There is no place I can go, no level of education I can attain, and no moment of service to God or our beloved community that you haven't already prayed me through. You didn't put a cap on where I could soar, and I believed you! I needed to be believed in and taken seriously, and you believed in me. Thank you for all the harsh conversations and stretching moments of growth.

I love you and am excited for the next chapter in your life. Well lived, well served, and well deserved!

*Rev. Sundria Sam*

*Reverend Dr. Rondall Leggett*  
Reverend Dr. Rondall Leggett

**WELL  
DONE!**

*Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine*



**2024**

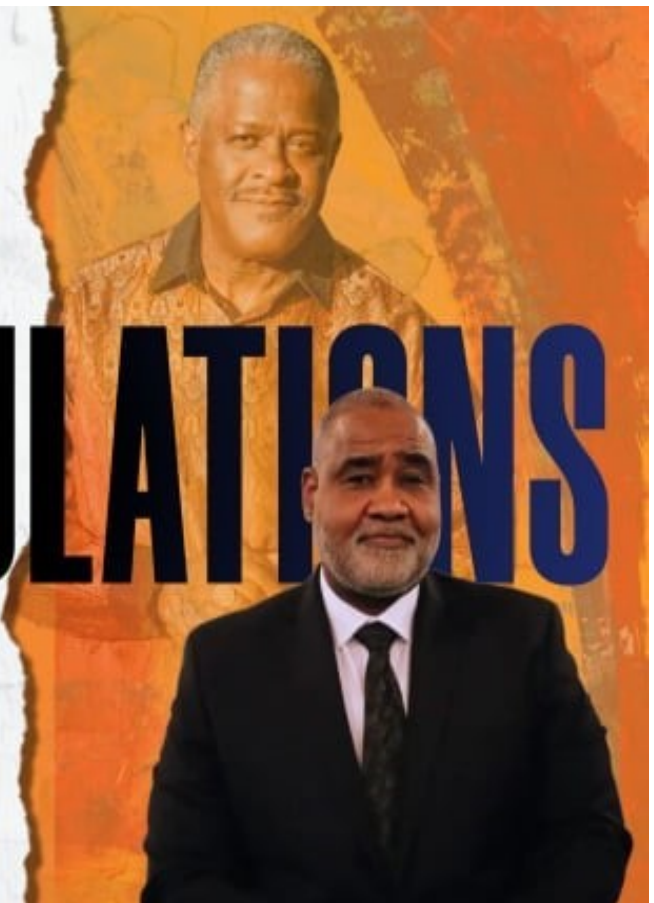
Congratulations Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine on your retirement  
We the members of the First Missionary Baptist Church salute you and join the Bethlehem church in praising God for your 40 year journey of pastoral faith and leadership.

*Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine*

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine on your retirement  
We the pastors, the executive board and churches of the  
Progressive Baptist Missionary Educational District  
Association salute you and praise God for your 40 year  
journey of pastoral faith.

*Reverend Dr. Rondall Leggett*  
Reverend Dr. Rondall Leggett  
Moderator





Dr. Bernstine,

On behalf of the One Accord Project we thank you for your years of partnership, advocacy and efforts to improve the lives of African Americans both locally and nationally. Our work together during the COVID-19 pandemic saved thousands of lives through church based vaccine clinics, messaging campaigns and outreach to African American congregations.

We honor you and we thank you for all of your support.

Congratulations on your retirement!

May God Bless You,

Sabrina N. Saunders

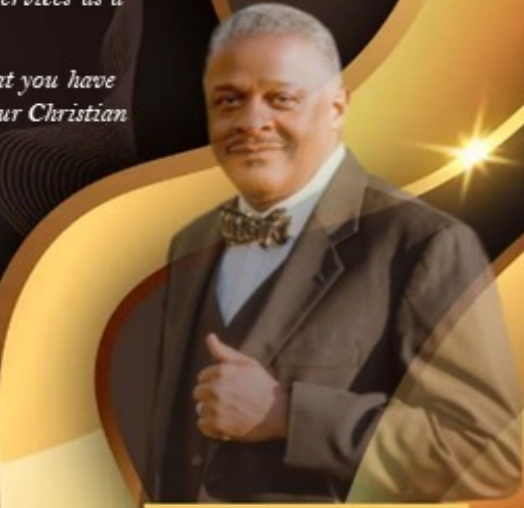
Executive Director/ Founder

One Accord Project



Thank you Dr. Bernstine for working in collaboration with the Foster/Kinship Care Education program through Contra Costa College, and in collaboration with the Contra Costa Youth Service Bureau. You have taught us classes for over 15 years.  
**Love, the Ladies of Kinship**

**40** *Congratulations!*  
*Rev. Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine*  
 On Your Retirement  
 To a Special Friend and Community Leader  
*In recognition on your 40 years of outstanding and dedicated services as a Faith-Based Community Partner and Pastor.*  
*As you retire, may you be profoundly proud of all the work that you have done, the person you are and the difference you have made in our Christian journey, the community and the world.*

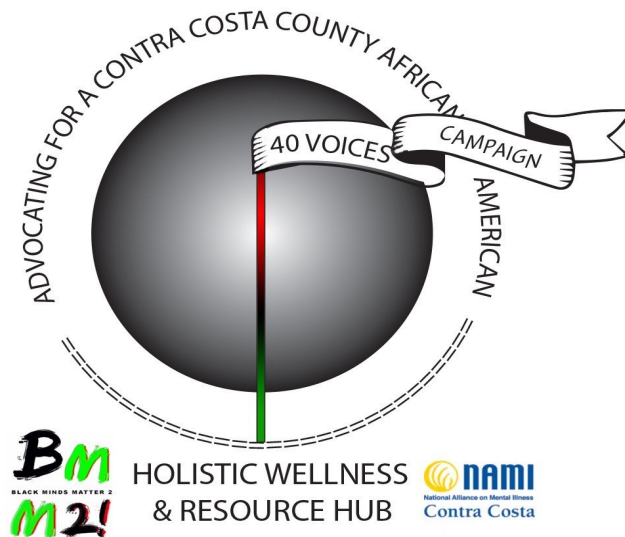



Best Wishes... Contra Costa Youth Services Bureau  
 Marena Brown, Executive Director  
 CCYSB Board of Directors & Staff

Rev. Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine

# Congratulations!

**Thanks Pastor Bernstine, you are one of the fearless leaders in Contra Costa that made the African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub a future reality!**



**Gigi Crowder**  
**Executive Director**





ST. PAUL COMMUNITY BC

*Imagine...*

# CONGRATULATES

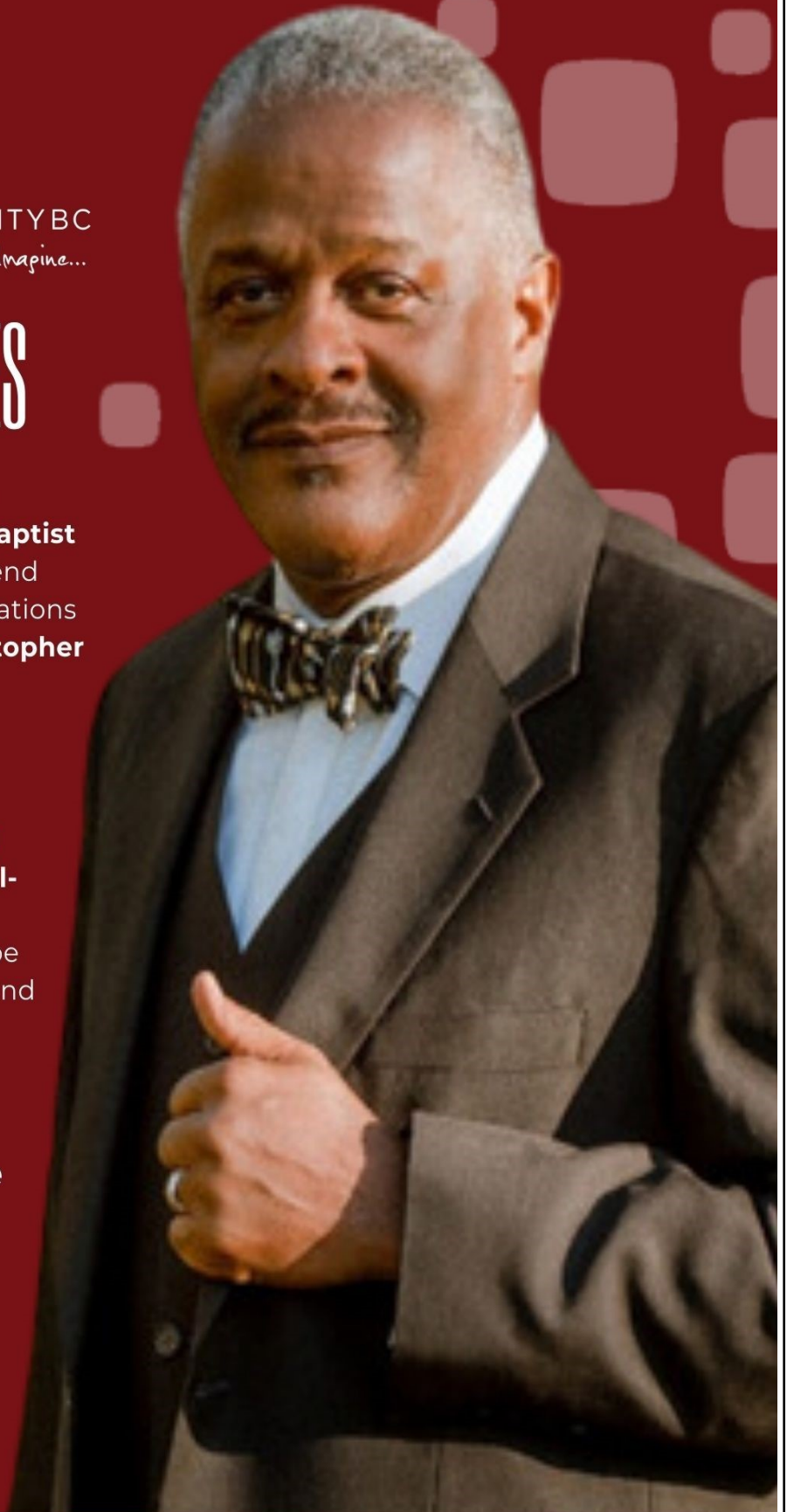
On behalf of the entire **St. Paul Community Baptist Church family**, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to **Rev. Dr. Alvin Christopher Bernstine** on his well-deserved retirement!

**Wishing you all the happiness, peace, and fulfillment in your well-deserved retirement.**

May this new chapter be filled with endless joy and countless blessings.

## **REVEREND**

**Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine**



**ST. PAUL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH** 859 HENDRIX ST., BROOKLYN, NY 11207



Pastor Eric & Lady Sheila Morris and the Pilgrim Rest MBC is sending Blessings upon Blessings on your Pastoral Retirement.

## **"Congratulations"**

May the Lord bless and keep you in your next chapter,

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# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Wednesday, May 22, 2024



# Congratulations

Pastor Alvin C. Bernstine

As you Complete Your

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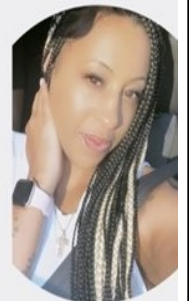
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Pastor Bernstine on your  
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and his

**44** *Year*

**Journey of Pastoral Faith.**

**We wish you the best of health, joy, and  
success on your new journey in life!**



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in your life, may God continue  
to richly bless you and watch over you,  
may the God of peace grant you  
peace now and always.

*The Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Family*

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