

# THE DISPATCH

## Newsletter for Georgia Deans

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL DEANS



FALL 2022

Christian Education  
Leadership Structure  
Of the  
National Baptist Convention

- Sunday School Publishing Board
- Division of Christian Education Accreditation and Credentials
- Christian Education Advisory Committee
- Regional Coordinators
- State Conventions
- State Directors
- Deans
- Christian Leadership Schools

Volume 4, Issue 1

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*From the Director's Pen by Dr. Roberta J. Hatcher*

**"Raising Leaders and Connecting Generations for Kingdom Building"**



I greet you in the wonderful name of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Today we recognize the bountiful blessings of God and we give Him all the praise. Although we know that the pandemic has not been eradicated, we are grateful that the incidences of infections and deaths have gone down significantly in our state and the nation. However, we must remain vigilant and mindful and prayerful because the pandemic has not ended. It is my prayer that God will allow us to continue moving forward with in-person Christian Education activities while still following the recommended guidelines from the Center of Disease Control.

must always remember our convention's theme of "Raising Leaders and Connecting Generations for Kingdom Building." This theme offers many opportunities for training individuals across generations within the local church. Therefore, as church leaders, I feel that we must be intentional in our efforts to identify, recruit, and train others to lead. Furthermore, certified Deans are certainly in the business of helping Pastors raise leaders in churches through the operation of our nationally certified Christian Leadership Schools. We have the means to provide the necessary training and follow-up to ensure that generations are connected through effective leadership in our churches for kingdom building purposes. Therefore, I urge you to remain fully committed to the tenants of II Timothy 2:15 while preparing leaders to train others.

As we move back to in-person training through Christian Leadership Schools, we

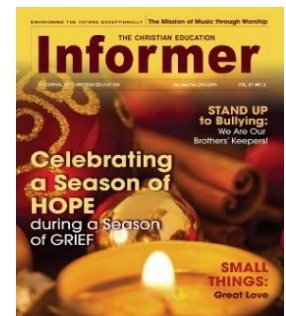
During this Thanksgiving season, and every day, I thank God for each of you. To God be the glory for the things He has done!



**PASS IT ON...**The Christian Education Informer is a journal for Christian Educators and can be helpful to all Christians. This helpful quarterly journal is designed to keep Christians informed about many topics. Order your SSPB Journal of Christian Education from <https://www.sspbnc.com/store/sspb>.

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"Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name."

1 CHRONICLES 29:13 (NKJV)

**Rev. Dr. Alvin Bunch**



Rev. Dr. Alvin McKinley Bunch, Jr. was born in Ahoskie, North Carolina; the third of five children.

He is a graduate of Ahoskie High School in Ahoskie, North Carolina. He holds an Associate of Science Degree from Cameron University in Lawton, OK; a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies from Beacon University in Columbus, GA; a Master of Arts degree in Biblical Studies from Andersonville Theological Seminary in Camilla, GA, and a Doctoral Degree, Biblical Counseling, Andersonville Theological Seminary, Camilla, GA.

Dr. Bunch enlisted in the United States Army at the age of seventeen. He served in many locations throughout the United States and overseas. He also served three tours in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. After serving his country honorably and proudly for more than 28 years, he retired at the rank of Command Sergeant Major. After leaving the military he continued to serve his country by working for the Department of Defense. Dr. Bunch recently retired from the Department of Defense after working 16 years.

In February 2000, he was licensed into the ministry by Pilgrim Home Missionary Baptist Church in St. Albans, West Virginia. Dr. Bunch was ordained by St. James Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, in April 2003, where Rev. Dr. Ralph Huling is the pastor.

Dr. Bunch currently serves as the Senior Pastor at Springfield Baptist Church (11 Years) in Waverly Hall, GA. Dr. Bunch and his bride (Almetta) have been married for 37 years. To this union, they have one daughter (Alvina "Deslyn"). Above all, Rev. Bunch wants everyone to know that he **IS B3!** A **B**aptized, **B**orn-again **B**eliever in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! **GOD IS GOOD... ALL THE TIME!**

**Meet the Southern Region GMBC Christian Education Coordinator:  
Minister Cynthia Mikell**

Sis. Cynthia Mikell has been working for the Lord since 1984 and she is not tired yet! She is the wife of the Rev. Jimmie L. Mikell, Pastor of the St. Thomas Baptist Church in the city of Savannah, Georgia, where she is also a member and serves as the Dean of Christian Education. As a certified Dean, she is a member of the Savannah Coalition of Deans Alliance. The Alliance coordinates with other Deans in the Savannah area to provide a fast-track system for students in the Certificate of Progress Program (COPP). She is a certified Dean with many years of experience, and she has served as Dean of Christian Leadership Schools in the Savannah area. Dean Mikell is an outstanding Christian educator who has served in the Christian Education Department of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia as an instructor with the Congress of Christian Education and the Christian Leadership Institute. She is currently serving in the capacity of Christian Education Coordinator for the Southern Region. She is available to assist Pastors, district leaders, local church leaders, and anyone in the Southern Region who requires her assistance. She can be contacted through the St. Thomas Baptist Church office.



**GROUNDBREAKING SUCCESS!**

**Congratulations** to Rev. Benjamin E. V. Lett, GMBC of GA, Inc., Congress of Christian Education, and the entire team of faculty and staff on a very successful 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Congress of Christian Education. The in-person Congress was held in Macon, Georgia, July 19 – 21, 2022. Classes were available for in-person delegates, as well as those at home who joined the in-person classes via the hybrid experience. Virtual Congress classes were also a third option for delegates. We are very grateful for the work of our Congress of Christian Education team.

*Walk by Faith, not by Sight. II Corinthians 5:7*



**Thanksgiving Greetings from the GMBC Christian Education Department**



Dr. Roberta J. Hatcher



Min. Cynthia Mikell



Dean Princeanna Walker



Rev. James L. Ramey



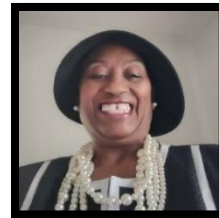
Dr. Brandon Isome



Rev. Veon Williams



Dr. Leon Ward



Dean Kathy Morgan



Rev. Millicent West

**Deans' Orientation to New 2022 SSPB CLS Manual**



**Rev. Eric Williams, Senior Director of Christian Education at the Sunday School Publishing Board, meet with the GA Deans on November 12, 2022 and presented the new 2022 Christian Leadership School Manual. GA Deans will have a follow-up meeting January 2023 to recap the changes in the manual and discuss any questions or concerns. Deans will be notified when the manuals are available for purchase from the SSPB bookstore.**

**SAVE THE DATES!!!**

- January 14, 2023
- February 15-17, 2023
- March 4, 2023
- August 10-12, 2022

Certified Deans Meeting to discuss the changes in the 2022 CLS Manual  
 Virtual CLI Courses (Week before the Adjourned Session)  
 SSPB Vacation Bible School Workshop – Location TBA  
 Statewide Christian Education Conference at Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Augusta, GA - theme **“Heirs of the Kingdom Staying Connected.”** –  
**Supporting** Scriptures: John 15:1-8 and II Timothy 2:15– Look for more information in the coming months.



**Special Thanks to GMBC of GA Vice President Rev. Cory Neal** for being the featured speaker at the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting for certified GA Deans. He stressed the worth of Christian Education in our state and commended the Deans for the great job they are doing. Rev. Neal stated, “The main emphasis in every Church and district is to grow, develop leaders, leadership training, and to make disciples. Leaders should be in the development mode, planning for growth, sharing, and developing the next leaders to be prepared to continue the explosion of learning for the people of God.” Thank you, Rev. Cory Neal, for your support.



*Encourage each other and build each other up.* | Thessalonians 5:11

## The Camilla Baptist Leadership School by Dean Mary Scruggs



The Camilla Baptist Leadership School under the auspices of the Camilla Missionary Baptist Association (CMBA), has been a vibrant Christian organization in South Georgia for many years. Under the leadership of Dean Mary Scruggs, we were fortunate to have our first graduation at Union Missionary Baptist Church, Moultrie, GA, Pastor, Rev. Freddie Williams on Friday, October 19, 2019.

We congratulated the following students who completed Phase I of the Certificate of Progress Program (COPP): Rev. Dr. Dellise Cox, Dr. Delores R. Flemming, Deacon Solomon Sanders, Deacon Horace Taylor, and Deacon Horace Thompson. These students have reached the level to teach COPP courses on the Local, State, and National levels according to the Sunday School Publishing Board in Nashville, TN. Other students who were honored after completing Phase I prior to the graduation were Sister Linda Crawford, Rev. James Edwards, Rev. Chucky Mathis, Sister Valerie Neal, Rev. Dr. J.A. Severson, and Rev. Dr. Hayward Teague, who completed all phases and all 2099 courses.

When the Pandemic occurred in early 2020, we were devastated and helpless, because many of our churches were crippled in moving forward, because of not having technology. Therefore, we were unable to have our Christian Leadership Schools. The Pandemic challenged us to rethink having our normal events in an environment where many churches were not equipped to embrace technology. However, we know we must continue to be about meeting the mandated for the Great Commission with making disciples and producing more certified instructors and deans.

With God's blessings, the CMBA Christian Leadership School held its first Virtual School April 11-12; 19 & 21, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. We were fortunate to have our Congress President, Deacon Horace Taylor, teach the COPP Course #1072 – A Survey of the New Testament. We had sixteen students who participated during the four days, and ten students received course cards. In spite of the Pandemic, we will continue with God's blessings to provide more courses in the future. To God be the glory!

### State Director of Christian Education

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**Dr. Roberta J. Hatcher, Dean**

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Check the GMBC Website for other notices regarding training opportunities and Information for Georgia Deans and Instructors – <http://gmbcgeorgia.org>