

THE ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

In the City of New York

Founded in 1808



Reverend Kevin R. Johnson, Ed.D. – Senior Pastor

**72nd ANNUAL SERMON OF THE ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
JOINT BOARDS**

“Called and Ready: Unified in Love, Fortified by Prayer”

**Reverend Tisha Dixon-Williams – Guest Preacher
First Baptist Church of Bridgehampton, NY**

CALL TO WORSHIP • THE LORD’S PRAYER

Deacon Trilbi L. Knight

PROCESSIONAL OF OFFICERS • OPENING SONG

United Voices of Abyssinian *“For the Rest of My Life”*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF JOINT BOARD SUNDAY

Pastor Johnson

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Trustee Cynthia Bookhart Adams

CHORAL RESPONSE “Completely Yes”

BABY BLESSING

Pastor Johnson

ANTHEM

United Voices of Abyssinian *“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”*

OFFICERS “LEST WE FORGET”

Deacon Sandye Poitier Johnson

In Honor of Those Who Have Served

Deacon Sydney Bush-McCurtis, Deacon Eliza Johnson

WELCOME & PASTORAL EMPHASIS

Pastor Johnson

SCRIPTURE

Trustee Dana Fleming

Romans 8”38-39 NIV, *“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

IN MEMORIAM

We Remember Our Beloved Officers Who Transitioned from Labor to Reward

Deacon/Trustee Patricia Proctor; Deacon David Adams; Deacon James T. McShay
Deacon Beryl Jeffers, Trustee Robert Gore, Jr, Deacon Morris McWilliams, Deacon David E. Thomas

OFFERTORY APPEAL & DOXOLOGY

United Voices of Abyssinian, *“I’m Not Tired Yet”*

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

Reverend Kevin R. Johnson, Ed. D.

MEDITATION

United Voices of Abyssinian, *“Dwell in the House”*

MESSAGE

Reverend Tisha Dixon-Williams

INVITATION

Pastor Johnson

CHAIR REMARKS

Deacon Karyn M. Davenport • Trustee Robert Gore, Jr. • Deacon Calvin O. Butts, IV

RECESSIONAL HYMN

United Voices of Abyssinian, "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus"

BENEDICTION

Deacon Brian Kaplan

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Deacon/Trustee Patricia Proctor (January 19, 2026)

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV) *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”*

Patricia L. Proctor was a beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, and friend and was deeply devoted to Abyssinian. She provided decades of faithful service to the church as a Trustee, a Deacon, and choir member, always embodying principles of service and charity and serving with a caring, loving spirit. Born and educated in New York, including earning a degree at Nyack College, Deacon/Trustee Proctor excelled not only in her spiritual and family life but in her professional life as well, having served as a Vice President at Wells Fargo. As her family so beautifully observed of her legacy, Deacon/Trustee Proctor will be remembered as a beacon of love, strength, and unwavering devotion to family and community. Her spirit will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her, showcasing a life rich in compassion, dedication, and grace.

Deacon David Adams (January 30, 2026)

Matthew 5:16 NKJV *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

Deacon David Lee Adams was raised in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and Washington Heights. David had a dedicated career at the Manhattan Psychiatric Center but spent his free time on the tennis court. It was on the tennis court where he met his beloved wife Deacon Earnestine Wallace Adams. David was called to serve as a deacon in 1984. David and Earnestine formed a lifelong partnership rooted in love, family, and shared purpose. Inspired by Earnestine, David founded “Youth on the Move.” With the support of Rev. Butts, the program flourished offering football, basketball, karate, double dutch, track and after school activities to Harlem youth. As director of Youth on the Move, David became forever known as “Coach Adams” a title reflecting his influence on generations of young people.

David Adams is survived by his beloved wife, Deacon Earnestine, his loving son and daughter and his three beautiful grandchildren who affectionately called him “PaPaw” his most treasured title.

Deacon James Theodias McShay (June 2, 2026)

Psalms 1:1-2 NIV *“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.”*

Deacon McShay was a faithful servant of God whose life reflected humility, devotion, and unwavering service to others. A member of Abyssinian Baptist Church for seventy-nine years and a deacon for sixty-seven years, he dedicated himself to strengthening the church through his leadership as Treasurer and then later President of the Abyssinian Baptist Church Federal Credit Union, Vice Chairman of Christian Education, Chairman of the Men's Day Committee, and Chairman of the New Deacons Investigating Committee.

Known for his quiet strength, wisdom, and steadfast commitment, he mentored generations of deacons, ministers, and church leaders while faithfully serving under the pastorates of Reverend Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Reverend Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor, and Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts III. He was respected as a trusted advisor, counselor, and leader, yet remained a man of deep humility and authentic faith. Above all, he was a devoted husband, loving father, cherished grandfather, and proud great-grandfather whose legacy of faith, service, and love continues to inspire all who were blessed to know him.