

MT. LEVEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"CALLED TO SERVE"

2 TIMOTHY 2:2

SUNDAY

JUNE 8, 2025

10:00AM

EDUCATION SUNDAY

IN PERSON & VIRTUAL

****ALL GRADUATES AND ALUMNI ARE ASKED TO
WEAR THEIR REGALIA FOR THIS SERVICE.**

**PROCESSIONAL-CLASS OF 2025
GRADUATES AND ALUMNI**



**SPEAKER: REV. DR. BRAXTON D. SHELLEY
YALE UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL**

316 Hebron Rd | Durham, NC 27704 | (919) 477-3893 | Rev. Dr. William C. Turner Jr., Pastor

Education Sunday Service

June 8, 2025

10:00 AM

Processional

“Pomp & Circumstance” – Graduates & Alumni

Call to Worship & Prayer

Rev. Sheritta M. Williams

Praise & Worship

Mt. Level Mass Choir

Responsive Reading

Congregational Hymn

“There is Power in the Blood”

Purpose

Sis. Kayla Boone

2025 Graduate Video Presentation

Presentations to Graduates

Dr. Karol Harshaw-Ellis

Sis. Betty Parker

Announcements & Offering

Rev. Sheritta M. Williams

Introduction of Speaker

Sis. LaTosha Ruffin

Scripture

Rev. Sheritta M. Williams

Sermonic Song

Mt. Level Mass Choir

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Braxton D. Shelley

Professor of Divinity and Sacred Music

Yale University

Altar Call & Prayer

Remarks

Rev. Dr. William C. Turner Jr., Pastor

Benediction

Reverend Dr. Braxton D. Shelley

Minister, musician, and musicologist, Rev. Dr. Braxton D. Shelley is Professor of Music, of Sacred Music, and of Divinity at Yale University, where he also serves as the Faculty Director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Music and the Black Church. A native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Rev. Dr. Shelley received a B.A. in Music and History from Duke University, followed by a Master of Divinity and a Ph.D. in the History and Theory of Music from the University of Chicago. He was licensed in the gospel ministry by Mt. Level Missionary Baptist Church of Durham, NC, and ordained by the East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association.

A specialist in African American popular music, Rev. Dr. Shelley's research and critical interests—while especially focused on African American gospel performance—extend into media studies, sound studies, phenomenology, homiletics, and theology. His award-winning first book, *Healing for the Soul: Richard Smallwood, the Vamp, and the Gospel Imagination*, develops an analytical paradigm for gospel music that weaves together insights from cognitive theory, ritual theory, and homiletics with studies of repetition, form, rhythm, and meter. This book has garnered four prestigious prizes: the Lewis Lockwood Award from the American Musicological Society, the Emerging Scholar Award-Book from the Society for Music Theory, the Ruth Stone Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology, and the inaugural Portia Maultsby Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology.

His second book, *An Eternal Pitch: Bishop G.E. Patterson, Broadcast Religion, and the Afterlives of Ecstasy*, was published in November 2023 by the University of California Press. His third book, *Digital Antiphony: Black Gospel, Social Media, and the Craft of Collectivity*, is forthcoming with Oxford University Press. Rev. Dr. Shelley has lectured at colleges, universities, and conferences across the United States, as well as in Canada, Greece, and South Africa.

As a composer, Rev. Dr. Shelley has created gospel selections such as “Don’t Faint,” “Due Glory,” “Say So,” and “Kept,” which have been ministered at conferences, concerts, and worship services nationwide. He is currently completing a new recording project, *Your Name*, slated for release in fall 2025.

Above all, Rev. Dr. Shelley remains committed to the faithful declaration of the Word of God—in sermon and in song.

Mount Level Missionary Baptist Church
Educational Day Purpose— June 8, 2025

Theme: *“Called to Serve”*

2 Timothy 2:2

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

The **Albert E. Love Education Committee** was established under the leadership of Mrs. Olinzie Johnson to organize and plan activities for our annual Educational Day services. Traditionally held on the second Sunday in June, this day celebrates the academic achievements of our young people.

Mount Level Missionary Baptist Church has always shown a profound commitment to the youth of our church and the surrounding community. Over the years, our members have volunteered at Sandy Ridge

Elementary School and offered weekly tutoring at the church to support local children.

Each year, we proudly support our college-enrolled members with the **Albert E. Love Scholarship**, which has benefitted numerous students over the years.

Dr. Albert E. Love was a son of the Mill Grove Community and was a frequent speaker at our Educational Day services. His life was a testament to service and sacrifice. Dr. Love passed away on December 23, 2019. In his memory, the Love family requested that donations be made to the scholarship fund. His legacy lives on through our graduates as we continue to honor Educational Day in his name.

To our graduates:

2 Timothy 2:2 encourages us to pass on the teachings we have received to faithful men and women who can, in turn, teach others. As you enter this new chapter in your lives, remain strong in the grace of Christ Jesus and serve Him faithfully. Continue to share the good news of Christ—crucified, risen, and ascended for the redemption of humankind. May your faithfulness lead others to salvation and eternal life.

Congratulations to each of you. May God bless you and guide you always.

Happy Birthday!

June 1

Joyce Barbee

June 2

Nancy Bumgardner

Gail Perry

June 7

Shelly Banks

Quan Pettiford

Quinton Pettiford

Vivian Thornton

June 10

Debra Green

Brandon Riggsbee-Hunter

June 12

Diane Sparrow

June 13

Sharon Partridge

June 15

Billy Barnett

June 16

Carlton Evans

Jazmyn Horton

June 17

John Deloatch

June 18

Peggy Boone

Carla Green

LaShaun Ruffin

June 19

Miriam Phillips-Stephens

June 20

Dilcy Burton

June 22

Mirian Gentry Monroe

June 23

Leon King

June 24

Kathy Kenney

June 25

Nicole Parker

June 27

Delores Abram

John Cole

Save the Date

- **June 8** – Education Sunday
- **June 9-13** – Vacation Bible School
- **June 18-20** – Church Revival
- **June 28** – Church Retreat

Sick & Distress

Delores Abram
Dorothy Allen
Rosye Bragg
Ralph Burton
Mildred Easterling
Emeritus William Evans
Debra Green
Joyce Hamilton
James Holliday
Robert Jones
Annie Lawson
Frank Lewis
Margerita Mitchell
Pearl Moore
Gaston Patterson
Carolyn Peaks
Linda Rawley
Deborah Ruffin

Wedding Anniversaries

<u>Date</u>	<u>Couple</u>	<u>Years</u>
June 1	Joyce & Dr. William C. Turner Jr.	52
June 3	Vanessa & Stacey Price	39
June 10	Dorothy & Emmanuel McGirt Sr.	36
June 16	Vi & Cornell Parker	52
June 18	Sandra & Plummer Dillahunt Jr.	47
June 20	Licia & Novarro McDonald	38

Tithes & Offering

- **Online:** www.mtleveimbc.org
 - **Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 15988 Durham, NC 27704
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Stewardship Offering

June 1, 2025

- **Tithes & Offering:** \$12,112.68
 - **Food Pantry:** \$670.00
 - **Sunday School:** \$10.00
 - **Church Anniversary:** \$100.00
 - **Burial Fee:** \$1,000.00
 - **Facility Development:** \$500.00
 - Total:** \$13,962.68
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To the Graduating Class of 2025

Congratulations on this remarkable achievement! Your dedication, perseverance, and hard work have brought you to this significant milestone, and now you stand ready to embark on new adventures.

As you move forward, remember to:

- **Celebrate your accomplishments:** Honor the countless hours of study and the challenges you've overcome to reach this moment.
- **Embrace the future:** View this graduation not as an end, but as the exciting beginning of a new chapter filled with endless possibilities.
- **Be open to change:** Life's journey will bring new opportunities—welcome them with an open mind and a resilient spirit.
- **Never stop learning:** Let your curiosity lead the way. Continue to grow, learn, and expand your understanding of the world around you.
- **Find your purpose:** Use your education and your gifts to make a positive difference and build a brighter future for all.

May your path ahead be filled with discovery, purpose, and fulfillment. Once again, congratulations!

AE Love/Education Committee

Deaconess Connie Bethea & Deaconess Sharon Evans, Co-Chairs

Dr. Karol Harshaw-Ellis

Sis. Licia McDonald (Committee Members)

CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2025

