

# Ebenezer Celebrates 78<sup>th</sup> Woman's Day



Dr. Courtney Swisher Banks



(AUSTIN, TX) - Ebenezer Third Baptist Church will celebrate the 78<sup>th</sup> Woman's Day Observance, Sunday, May 22, 10:30 a.m. at the church located at 1010 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street. This year the Candlelight Service will take place after a two-year pause because of the pandemic. The public is invited to attend this worship celebration. The theme this year, "Empowered to Serve, Inspired to Love, and a Spirit to Persevere," taken from 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV).

The keynote speaker is Dr. Courtney Swisher Banks, Assistant Professor, School of Psychology at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Banks attended Ebenezer as a child and today she is a respected professional in her field. She has received numerous accolades during the course of her ca-

reer including in 2020, she was the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to Education Award from the Texas Psychological Association. Dr. Banks is the director of the Creating Optimal Relationships in Educational Settings (CORES) research laboratory where she works with students to examine factors that promote equity in home and school partnerships.

Dr. Banks received her Ph.D. in School Psychology from Texas & M and she has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Baylor University. She is the daughter of the late Reverend Rodney Swisher and Carrie Organ Swisher. The Reverend Dr. Ricky Freeman is the Senior Pastor of Ebenezer.

For more information about the 78<sup>th</sup> Women's Day Celebration, you may contact the church office.

We Want YOU!  
Advertise With  
**The VILLAGER**

### Country Boyz Fixin's

4140 E. 12th Street, Austin, TX 78721  
Featuring Fish, Poboyos, Hot Wings, Pork Chops, Homemade Gumbo, Shrimp and Alligator

DINE IN OR  
ORDER TO GO  
Mon - Fri: 11 am - 8 p.m.  
Saturday: 12 noon - 5 p.m.  
Closed Sunday  
Call (512) 928-5555

## DOUBLE "R" GROCERY

\*We cash ALL Tax Refund\*Checks \*Check Out  
4501 East Martin Luther King Blvd.

**WE INVITE EVERYONE!**

**Sunday**  
10:00 a.m. Virtual Worship Service on YouTube Live. Click the QR code for Worship Services.  
8:45 a.m. Christian Education Ministry Experience via Zoom\*

**Wednesday**  
7:00 p.m. - Midweek Prayer Service via Zoom\*

\*Contact the church office at ebcoffice@sbcglobal.net for link.

Dr. Ricky Freeman, Senior Pastor  
1010 E 10th St, Austin, TX 78702  
Phone (512) 478-1875 Fax (512) 478-1892

Child Development Center (Ages 0-5)  
(512) 478-6709

## ACLU understands Texas Law states "voting mistakes" can't be prosecuted



Crystal Mason

Photo credit/MICHAEL BARAJAS

Continued from page 1

the ACLU of Texas, said in an interview that the court clarified that Texas law says the state "has to show that the person knew that they were ineligible to vote" when they cast a ballot.

"What this decision says is that innocent mistakes can't be prosecuted," he said.

The case now returns to a court of appeals, where it is directed to take up this case with this new guidance from the higher court.

The impact of the state's new voting law

Last year, Texas Republican lawmakers passed a controversial voting law that, among other things,



Texas Democratic gubernatorial candidate Beto O'Rourke, right, hugs Crystal Mason after she introduced him to speak during a primary election gathering in Fort Worth, Texas, on March 1. LM Otero/AP

cracked down on alleged voting crimes in the state. The law, known as Senate Bill 1, created new criminal penalties for people who assist voters in-person or voting by mail, and it beefed up penalties for existing voting crimes.

SB 1, however, also included language aimed at preventing another case like Mason's.

One of the other reasons the high criminal court wanted another review of her case is because Texas lawmakers included a provision in the law that specifies a person "may not be convicted solely upon the fact that the person signed a provisional ballot affidavit ... unless corroborated by other evidence that the person knowingly committed the offense."

"The amendment clarifies that a provisional ballot affidavit alone is insufficient evidence that the person MASON - knowingly committed the offense," the court wrote. "Corroboration by other evidence is required for conviction."

Voting rights advocates in the state had warned lawmakers that the legislation overall could ensnare people who make mistakes while voting. They say increased prosecutions aimed at voters could dissuade people from voting in Texas.

Voting groups also worry that further criminalizing voting will disproportionately affect communities of color. Mason, as an example, is a Black woman.

More than 70% of voter prosecutions conducted by the Texas attorney general's Election Integrity Unity targeted Black and Latino voters, according to a study from the ACLU of Texas published in March 2021.

### Agape Baptist Church

In "THE CENTRE" Bldg. F-15  
7801 North Lamar Blvd. (S.E. Corner of North Lamar and 183)  
Austin, Texas 78752

AGAPE: A church for all people. "Where Jesus Christ is Magnified and the Love He exhibited is Exemplified." Come, received God's Unconditional Love for you. For there is No Greater Love!

Church Services  
Sun. School - 9:30a Sun. Worship - 11:00a  
Mid-Week  
Thurs.: Prayer, and Bible Study - 7:00PM  
Call: 454-1547 for transportation  
Web: www.agapebcaustintx.com

H. Ed Calahan, Pastor

### NAMC

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY CONTRACTORS  
GREATER AUSTIN CHAPTER

Advocacy  
Education  
Procurement

Samuel T. Blango, III  
President

1101 Satellite View  
Suite 405  
Round Rock, TX 78665

(512) 290-8512  
Cell: (609) 880-4372  
namcaustintexas@gmail.com

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

4805 Heflin Lane, Austin, Texas 78721

"A Church Empowered by The Holy Spirit"

Danny L. Thomas Sr., Pastor

Worship Service  
Brotherhood 8:00am BTU 10:00am  
Sunday School 9:00 am Morning Worship 11:00am

Mid Week Services Wednesday  
Prayer 6:00pm  
Bible Study 7:00pm

Church: 512-926-4759  
Pastor's Desk: 512-926-6932  
Face Book: First Baptist Church on Heflin Lane  
Email: mbfbc2017@yahoo.com

### DAVID CHAPEL Missionary Baptist Church

SUNDAY  
Christian Education 9:15a.m. | Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Nursery Available  
WEDNESDAY |  
Worship 1st Wed. monthly 7:00p.m. | Bible Study 7:30p.m.

2211 East Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78702  
Office: 512-472-9748 Fax: 512-472-5399  
Website: www.davidchapel.org  
Email: info@davidchapel.org

"A Church with a Heart for The Community"

Dr. Joseph C. Parker, Jr.  
Senior Pastor

### Olive Branch Fellowship of Austin / All Faith Chapel

4110 Guadalupe St. Bldg #639 Austin, TX 78751  
Sunday Morning  
Worship @ 11: am

"This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified." --- Martin Luther

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Kenneth Hill,  
Pastor

### BETHEL-ST. PAUL UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH

877 W. Hempstead, Giddings, Texas 78942

Weekly Schedule  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:00p.m.

Pastor J. R. Roberson  
& First lady  
Lillian Robertson

(979) 542-2784 Church  
(979) 540-6352 Home