

## Free Indeed

"Everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." – John 8:34-36 NASB

What does it mean to be free? To English Puritans in the 17th century, freedom meant serving God without interference. To Africans sold into slavery, freedom meant being released from bondage.

To 18th-century American colonies, freedom meant charting their own course. Colonial leader Patrick Henry, whose father came to America from Scotland, believed that freedom was based on a commitment to Christianity. To him, freedom was possible only when based "on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Yet for many people, freedom simply means license. John Stuart Mill expressed this perspective, saying, "the only freedom which deserves the name is that of



pursing our own good in our own way." Is he right? What, in fact, is freedom?

The Bible says that we can experience ultimate freedom because Jesus died for us on the cross. Only if we surrender our lives to Him can we truly be "free indeed."

The Gospel promises us real freedom: freedom from fear and worry, burdens and anxiety. We never can find this freedom in a relationship, by making more money, or acquiring more things. Real freedom comes only when you no longer are a slave of sin and when you trust in Jesus.

Don't let sin keep you a prisoner. If you have confessed your sins and trusted in Him, you are free from sin. Rejoice! Let God take away your worries and burdens! You are free indeed!



# THE CONNECTION

Volume 6, Issue 35

July 2020

## Wesley Welcomes Our New Pastor and His Family

**Rev. Dr. Carlton J. McClam, Sr.** was born in Orangeburg, SC. He is the son of Rev. Mack C. and Gwendolyn T. McClam of Orangeburg, SC. He is the older of two children. He is married to Tonya Simmons McClam of Summerville, SC. They are the proud parents of two beautiful children Sydney Christina and Carlton Jerome, Jr.

Dr. McClam is a graduate of Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Religion. He attended Gammon Theological Seminary on the Campus of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. He is a graduate of Erskine Theological Seminary in Due West, SC where he received his Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.). He was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree (D.Div.) from Trinity Theological Seminary in Houston, Texas. He has also received Continuing Education credit in the area of Psychology at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, GA and recently completed the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) degree program, graduating with distinction with a concentration in Biblical Exposition/Pastoral Theology. **Continued on Page 2**

**First Lady Tonya V. Simmons McClam** was born in Summerville, SC to the late Gordon Simmons, Sr. of Jedburgh and Eleanor Fudd Simmons of Summerville, SC. She is the fourth of five children. Sister McClam attended public schools in Summerville, SC and graduated from Summerville High School. She and Rev. Dr. Carlton J. McClam, Sr. have been married for 25 years and are the proud parents of two wonderful children, Sydney Christina and Carlton Jerome, Jr.

First Lady McClam is a graduate from the Honor's College at Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC where she majored in Computer Science and Business Administration with a minor in Mathematics. She graduated Magna Cum Laude. She recently earned her Master of Science in Accounting with a concentration in Corporate Accounting from Strayer University where she graduated with honors.

First Lady McClam has worked as a Corporate Accountant in various industries for over 24 years. Her most recent previous position was Vice President of Accounting and Finance for a local nonprofit that serves children in the Foster Care system in the Lowcountry. She is currently the

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**Dr. McClam Continued from Page 1**

**Dr. McClam** has served as pastor of several churches within the South Carolina and North Georgia Conferences of the United Methodist Church. His former parishes include: the Oak Hill Parish (Richard's Chapel and Spring Hill United Methodist Churches) in the Atlanta metro area; the Greer Circuit (Bethel and St. Paul United Methodist Churches) in Greer, SC; the Peninsula Charge (Centenary and Old Bethel United Methodist Churches) in Charleston, SC where he served as the Senior Pastor, and Old Bethel United Methodist Church of Charleston formerly of the Peninsula Charge. He served as the Senior Pastor of Friendship United Methodist Church located in Nesmith SC and, most recently served as the Senior Pastor of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church in Charleston, SC.



Dr. McClam is a 33rd Degree Mason and a member of Eveready Lodge #431, Lake City, SC, King Solomon Consistory #330, Kingstree, SC, George A. Mcquire chapter #48 of the Holy Royal Arch Mason, Summerville, SC, Enoch #5 Council Of Royal & Select Master Mason, Goose Creek, SC, John E. Dowling Commandery #5 of the Knights Templars, North Charleston, SC, Arabian Temple #139 Shrine, Charleston, SC, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Dr. McClam is a Martial Artist with a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo and a Yellow Belt Rank in Shaolin Kempo Karate.

He currently serves on the South Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry as The Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Policy Review Committee, the Approval for Service/Transfer Committee, the Charleston District Board of Ordained Ministry and as a Certified Mentor for the South Carolina Annual Conference. He has formerly served as Chairperson of the Florence District Board of Ordained Ministry, Member of the Florence District Committee On District Superintendency, and Member of the Florence District Board Of Trustees, as Chairperson of the South Carolina Conference Committee On Nominations, the Charleston District Board of Congregational Development, the Advisory Committee of the Charleston Christian-Jewish Council, the Committee on Religious Affairs Branch of The Charleston NAACP, and the Advisory Board of the S.A.V.E. Outreach Program of Asbury-St. James UMC in Charleston, SC, the Conference Board on Church and Society, the Charleston District Grant-writing representative of the E.L.C.C. He is the former President of the Charleston Peninsula United Methodist Churches Fifth Sunday Union Fellowship.

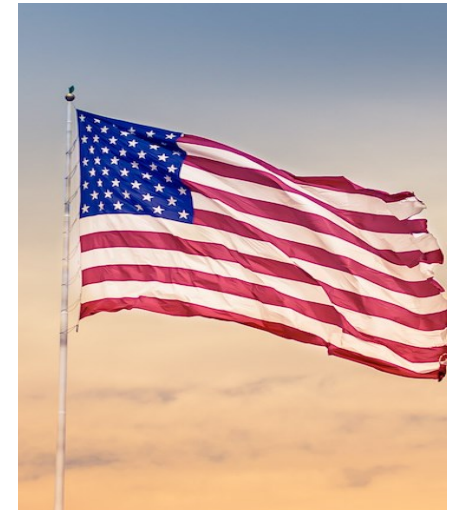
Dr. McClam is also the 1996 recipient of The Outstanding Young Man of America Award, in recognition of outstanding professional achievement, superior leadership ability and exceptional service to the community. He is also the recipient of the Charleston Chapter of the NAACP's 2005 Hero Pastor of the Year Award. Additionally, Dr. McClam has been honored and recognized by The State of South Carolina House of Representative for Outstanding Pastoral Leadership.

**A**merica is hurting. Pandemics, racial inequalities, job loss, and political division have caused great suffering. We are called to be salt and light on the earth. As Christians, we can begin healing our land through prayer and action. Let us come together not just by words but a faith that produces works. The love and grace of God can begin turning the tide of America.

We look to You and to You, only, Lord. Help us make wise decisions that move our country in the right direction. Help us to do our part in praying and in staying with what we know is right according to the truth of Your Word. Teach us to make our actions count and our words matter, and line them both up to Your sense of rightness, not ours. Guide us with Your eye; grip us with Your strong arm; teach us what we need to know to make our lives - and our nation - count for you.

### **A Prayer for Leaders to Rise Up in America**

Lord God, we desperately need your wisdom. You have given us a great country, founded on principles and truths from Your Word. We need men and women who will honor You, trust You, and lead us once again back to You. We pray for servant leaders who love the things You love and who care more about others than themselves.



Raise up leaders with the greatest potential of godly leadership, those who can ease confusion, expose illusion, and heal delusion. You alone hold the power to turn the hearts of leaders, but You listen and use our prayers to move them into right action. Help us to be faithful to care and to pursue Your heart in prayer. - Rebecca Barlow Jordan

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2Timothy 2:15*



**THANK YOU!!!!** Thank you for the offerings you have made and are making to Wesley UMC Ladson. Your offerings of your time, of your God-given talents, and of your money help support all that we do at Wesley. Wesley could do nothing without the faithful offerings of its members. Together, we are the Body of Christ. When we are giving, we are being the faithful people God calls us to be. To God be the glory for your steadfast faithfulness.

**The Finance Committee**



"FOR I *Know* THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE *Lord!*

"PLANS TO prosper YOU, & NOT HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU Hope & A Future."

-JEREMIAH 29:11



Senior Accounting Manager for an investment fund located in North Charleston.

First Lady McClam loves spending time with her family and making sure they are happy and healthy. In her spare time she is an avid reader. She loves watching children develop a love for reading. First Lady is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.



*1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.*

*Dr. McClam and First Lady Tonya McClam  
Sydney and Carlton, Jr.*





WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LADSON

## Drive-In Worship

Sunday, July 26

9:45 AM



**Just PULL UP in your car, PARK and follow the instructions given by parking lot attendants.**



## Virtual Mission u 2020

July 18 | July 25 | August 8

*"Finding Peace in an Anxious World"*

Register online at <https://www.umcsc.org/discipleship/united-methodist-women/>

2020



South Carolina Annual Conference

August 1 | Florence Center

All attendees must register by July 17.

Bryant Gumbel Gives Powerful Commentary on the 'Black Tax,' the 'Added Burden' of Being Black By Robyn Merrett

"It's paid daily by me and every person of color in this country, and frankly, it's exhausting," said the *Real Sports* host

Bryant Gumbel is opening up about his experience as a Black man in America.

On Tuesday's special edition of HBO's *Real Sports*, which examined how systemic racial injustice and the have affected sports, the host, 71, closed out the segment explaining the plight of Black people through the term "Black tax."

"It's not an IRS thing. It's the added burden that comes with being Black in America," Gumbel said. "And it's routinely paid no matter how much education you have, how much money you make, or how much success you've earned."

The sportscaster went on to share that "Black tax" is "more than just the added stares, whispers and suspicions when you're out and about... it's about the many instances of disrespect and incivility your color seems to engender, and being expected to somehow always restrain yourself, lest you not be what white Americans are never asked to be, a credit your race."

Gumbel noted that the experience includes not being afforded the same privileges as other races, as well as not being treated the same in the eyes of the law.

"It's about living a life that included your father having to leave home to earn his law degree, even though he was an honor student and a decorated war veteran," he continued. "It's about your son getting arrested for doing nothing more than walking while Black. And it's about having to be more concerned than your white friends and associates for the safety of your grandkids."

Gumbel  
"It's about the day in and day out fatigue of trying to explain the obvious to the clueless. It's about being asked to overlook blue failings and white failings so they can be conveniently viewed as Black issues," Gumbel continued. "It's about being asked by so many what they should do or say about race when the easy answer lies in the privacy of each person's heart. It's the 'Black tax' ... it's paid daily by me and every person of color in this country, and frankly, it's exhausting."

Gumbel concluded his powerful commentary by acknowledging that he has been paying the "Black tax" for almost 72 years.

"Long enough that I shouldn't have to ask others to simply accept one very basic reality...that our Black lives matter," he said.

