



# *Harmony for a Cause*

A Centennial Celebration



1926 - 2026

# 100 Years Strong

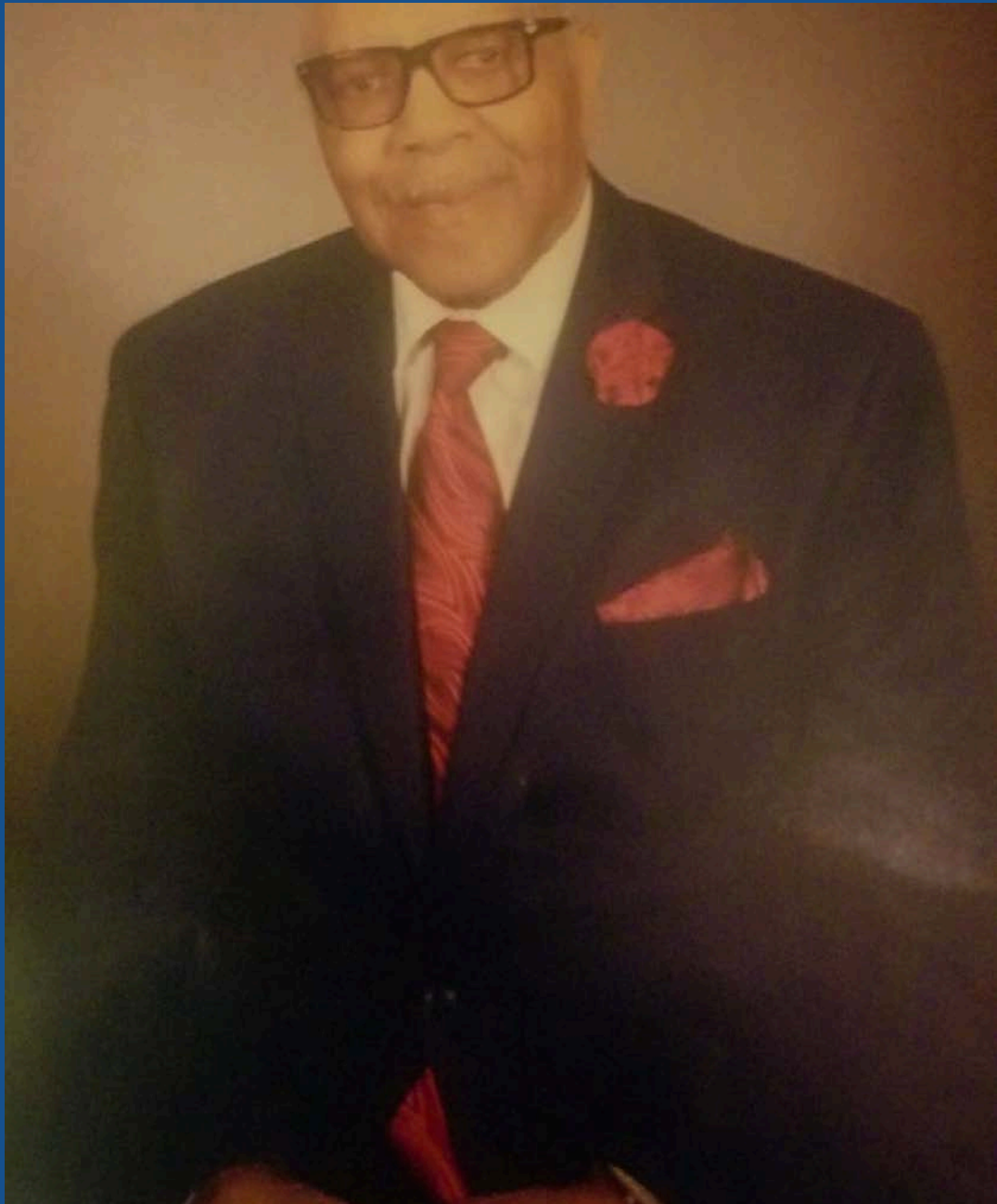


All proceeds benefit the  
Students of the Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School  
507 West Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Rev. Patrick D. Clayborn, Ph.D., Senior Pastor  
Bettye M. Adams, Principal

# CONCERT DEDICATED TO CLEVELAND "CLEVE" BRISTER

August 24, 1935 - November 26, 2025



Lovingly submitted by the  
Melbourne L. Tillis Lay Organization,  
Bethel AME Church





FIRST LADY

SENIOR PASTOR

REV. SHERI SMITH CLAYBORN, DMin. & REV. PATRICK CLAYBORN, Ph.D.  
PATRICK II AND JOYA CLAYBORN



Bethel A.M.E. Church  
BALTIMORE

*The House of Healing - Help - Hope*

# Congratulations

## ON YOUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary

# 100 Years of Faithfulness

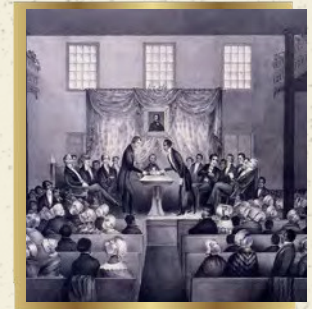
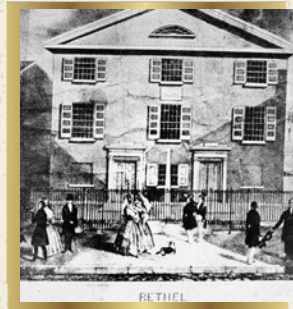
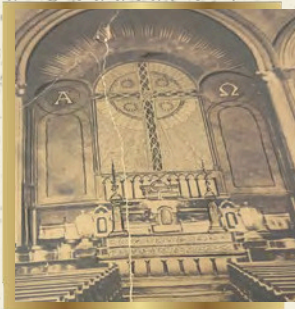
# HISTORY



BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH  
Established 1785

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Baltimore stands as a pillar of faith, freedom, and perseverance—a living witness to God’s sustaining power. Founded in 1785 by formerly enslaved and free people of African descent, Bethel is the oldest independent Black congregation in Maryland and the birthplace of African Methodism in the state.

What began as a small gathering of believers seeking a place to worship without restraint became a powerful movement for spiritual and social liberation. Under the leadership of Bishop Richard Allen and early pastors like Rev. Daniel Coker, Bethel helped lay the foundation for the African Methodist Episcopal Church and became a vital voice for justice and education.



Throughout its storied history, Bethel has been a refuge in times of struggle and a rallying point for change. From the abolitionist movement to civil rights activism, Bethel’s members have stood on the front lines of progress. Its pulpit has echoed with the voices of prophetic leaders and faithful servants, proclaiming a gospel of liberation and love.

Today, Bethel A.M.E. Church continues its legacy of \*healing, help, and hope\* through vibrant ministries that nurture the spirit, empower families, and strengthen the community. As we celebrate 240 years of ministry, we honor those who came before us and embrace the call to carry the light of Bethel forward—standing firm in faith, united in purpose, and rooted in the assurance that “the Lord is in this place.”



*“Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.”*

*Psalm 90:1 (NRSV)*



**Rt. Rev. Harry L. Seawright**  
Presiding Bishop

**Rev. Johnny R. Calhoun**  
Presiding Elder

*Believing, Being & Becoming*  
*More for Christ*

I greet you with Jesus' joy and hallelujah praise!

Melbourne Tillis was a mentor and great friend of mine. His dedication and commitment to serving the LORD with gladness was an inspiration to me and to the ministry I was called to by GOD. Naming Bethel's Lay Organization after him and in his honor is indicative of your zeal to serve the community with compassion and tenacity.

The Harmony for a Cause Concert is an example of your steadfast efforts to support local schools. I'm so proud to be the Presiding Elder of Bethel and it's Lay Organization. President. Cecilia Carroll and the members of the Lay Organization are to be commended for partnering and adopting local schools, who are in desperate need of the support that the faith community can uniquely provide.

Sharing the love of GOD and the power of faith with school students, personnel, parents and guardians will provide heartfelt encouragement and prayerfully life changing encounters with the LORD. Letting your lights shine so that they see your good works, glorifying the LORD and blessing His holy Name.

***Under the leadership of Pastor Clayborn and with the support of an amazing church, it does not yet appear what the LORD will do through Bethel's Lay Organization. Impacting the lives of countless youth and supporting teachers in their quest to positively affect the lives of those who will one day take the mantle of community leadership and wellbeing.***

***Well done Bethel!***

***Yours in Christ,***

***Rev. Johnny R. Calhoun, Presiding Elder***  
***Baltimore Conference/Baltimore District***

***Ou***



# MELBOURNE L. TILLIS LAY MINISTRY



*A Service of Worship,  
Music & Community*

It is with great joy and gratitude that we welcome you to *Harmony for a Cause* where music becomes prayer and voices become vessels of grace.

On behalf of our esteemed Pastor, Rev. Dr. Patrick D. Clayborn and the Melbourne L. Tillis Lay Organization of Bethel A.M.E. Church, we are excited to present this event as a labor of love and service. All proceeds will support The Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School, an enduring symbol of resilience and heritage. We hope you feel inspired to support this meaningful cause and be part of our community's ongoing legacy.

Through celebration of song, we affirm our commitment to investing in education, preserving history, and building a brighter future. Your support and contributions reflect our shared belief that when we invest in our children and our community, the benefits reach far beyond today.

Thank you for your being part of this joyous occasion. Your presence, donations, and words of encouragement are vital in helping us sustain our mission. May these pages serve as a cherished reminder of a night filled with inspiration, generosity, and the enduring power of faith, music, and community working together for a noble cause. We are grateful for your support and the shared faith that unites us all.

**"Make a joyful noise to the Lord,  
all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises."  
Psalm 98:4 (NRSV)**

*Cecelia Carroll  
President*

June 19, 2026



Dear Melbourne L. Tillis Lay Organization Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Baltimore Annual Conference Lay Organization to extend our heartfelt congratulations on the successful formalization of your partnership with the Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School, the historically noted first elementary school specifically constructed for colored children by the Baltimore City Board of Education. We are truly excited about the opportunities this collaboration will bring to both organizations. As you embark on this new chapter, BCLO believes your combined strengths will pave the way for continued innovative solutions in ensuring quality and equitable educational opportunities for all youth attending this historic landmark.

BCLO shares a common vision of expanding advanced educational opportunities to our youth in Baltimore City. However, BCLO is confident that the Melbourne Tillis Lay Organization will achieve remarkable success as it continues its partnership efforts with the Samuel Coleridge- Taylor Elementary School. The synergy between the two partners will create great leverage as both strive to guarantee this historical monument continues to deliver exceptional value to its students.

BCLO is particularly enthusiastic about the efforts also memorializing one of its own, Brother Melbourne Tillis, who served the Baltimore Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church with unwavering years of service extending educational resources throughout the conference, and thus being a part in spirit of this great partnership as your Lay Organization bears his name.

Please know that BCLO offers hats off to this fine service project of the Bethel AME Lay Organization held today. We thank the Pastor Rev. Patrick Clayborn for his leadership at Bethel. We are grateful for the Lay Leadership of the Melbourne Tillis Lay Organization led by Lay President Sister Cecelia Carroll, the Lay cabinet and the full membership of the Melbourne Tillis Lay Organization. Know that your service exemplifies the type of collaboration expressed by our Lay Benediction, *Lay Soldiers Working for Christ*. Continue to work closely with your partnership with this noted historical venture, knowing your efforts in the coming months will present as a seamless transition for a successful one. Once again, congratulations on this exciting venture. BCLO is eager to see the fruits of your joint efforts. On behalf of the Baltimore Conference Lay Organization Membership, We remain,

In His Service,

Brother Alvin R. White  
President Baltimore Conference Lay Organization

Sister Elaine E. Weaver  
D.O.L.A. Baltimore Conference Lay Organization

Sister Lauren Burke-Coursey  
Y.A.R. Baltimore Conference Lay Organization



# WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL



## THE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School Family, Honored Guests, and Community Partners,

It is with an abundance of joy and a deeply grateful heart that I welcome you to our "Harmony for a Cause" benefit concert. This afternoon is not just an afternoon of beautiful music; it is a historic celebration of resilience, community, and the bright future of our beloved scholars.

This year, we mark a monumental milestone: 100 years of educational excellence and legacy at The Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School. For a century, our school has stood as a beacon of hope and learning in Baltimore. As we honor this rich history tonight, we are also standing on the threshold of a thrilling new chapter. Today we create more history as we continue our rebrand into an Elementary Performing Arts School. By intentionally weaving the arts into our rigorous STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum, we are ensuring that our scholars are not just prepared for the future—they are empowered to shape it. To our wonderful parents, dedicated staff, brilliant students, government officials, and community partners: your presence today is a beautiful testament to your investment in our children. We deeply value your partnership and the invaluable gift of your time and talents. You are truly the village it takes to raise and nurture our future leaders.

I want to extend my profound gratitude to The Community Concert Choir of Baltimore for gracing us with their magnificent voices. I also wish to share a very special, heartfelt thank you to the Bethel AME Church Lay Organization, Cecelia Carroll (President), and Wanda Watts (Concert Chairman). Your tireless leadership, vision, and dedication have made this magical event possible.

On behalf of Assistant Principal Ebony Burton, Resident Principal Larry Strickland and our scholars we thank you for walking alongside us, for believing in our mission, and for investing in the limitless potential of our scholars. Please sit back, open your hearts, and enjoy the beautiful music.

With deep gratitude and warmth,

**Bettye M. Adams, Centennial Principal**

The Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School  
2026 Fund for Educational Excellence-- Heart of the Schools Awardee

# ABOUT US

## CELEBRATING

# 100

## YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

In 2026, The Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School will celebrate a historic milestone —100 years of serving Baltimore’s children and families. As one of the first schools in the city opened specifically for colored students, our centennial represents not only a celebration of legacy but also a continued commitment to excellence, equity, and innovation.

We are honored to stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and remain dedicated to cultivating the next generation of artists, leaders, and changemakers.



### **Our Mission: A Vibrant Learning Environment**

At The Historic Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School, we are committed to ensuring that every student achieves college or career readiness by providing and requiring grade-level or above achievement through differentiated instruction and appropriate interventions that promote students’ rigor and engagement in a collaborative and supportive environment.

### **Our Vision**

We are a community of teachers, families, and students at The Historic Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School who are dedicated to educating the mind, body, and spirit of every child in order to become responsible, caring, and high-achieving citizens in the global community.

### **What Makes Us Unique**



**Diverse and Inclusive Community:** We celebrate diversity and foster an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and supported.



**Dedicated Staff:** Our team of experienced and passionate educators is committed to providing a high-quality education that meets the needs of all students.



**Comprehensive Programs:** From arts and athletics to STEM and social-emotional learning, we offer a wide range of programs to develop well-rounded students.



**Family Engagement:** We believe in strong partnerships with families to support student success and create a welcoming school community.

# ABOUT US

## Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School

The Historic Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School is named in honor of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, a distinguished British composer and conductor. Of mixed-race descent, Coleridge-Taylor achieved remarkable success, earning the nickname "African Mahler" from white musicians in New York City during his three tours of the United States in the early 1900s. As a pioneer in classical music and an iconic figure in Black British history, his legacy inspires our school community.

We are proud to bear the name of such a trailblazer and have redeveloped our school to honor his legacy. Our curriculum offers students an introduction to a wide range of art forms, including dance, vocal music, visual arts, and soon, theater and instrumental music. Our mission is to help our children SOAR—Seeing Opportunities while Achieving Resilience—to new heights, fostering their creativity, confidence, and resilience in a supportive and enriching environment.

As a community school, we are not just a place for academic learning but a hub for family and community engagement. A community school integrates academics with health and social services, youth and community development, and meaningful family partnerships. Our strategy is rooted in collaboration—with families, community organizations, and service providers—to ensure every student is supported holistically and has the opportunity to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.



100  
YEARS STRONG

Harmony For A Cause

100 Years Strong

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School  
on this incredible milestone!

Congratulations and best wishes as you honor  
the past and embrace the future!

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# CONGRATULATIONS

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More to Come

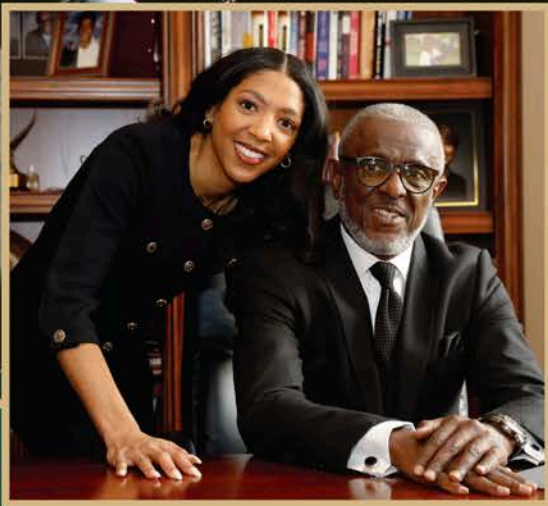


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jprattassociates@verizon.net

# *The righteous shall flourish*

like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; To shew that the Lord is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. - *Psalms 92:12-15*

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**PROGRAM**

*Ceremonial Drum Call*.....*The Baltimore African Drum Ensemble*

*INTROIT*.....*Siyahamba/Lift Every Voice & Sing*.....*S. African Folk Song/Roland Carter*  
*Min. Stephanie Powell, choreographer*

*CHORAL INVOCATION*.....*In This Very Room*.....*Carol & Ron Huff*

**I. Poetry of the Ancestors**

*Listen Lord, A Prayer*.....*James Weldon Johnson*  
*Mrs. Gina L. Roberts*

**II. The Spiritual**

*Give Me Jesus*.....*arr. Roland Carter*

*O Lord, Let Me Ride*.....*arr. Phillip McIntyre*

*In Bright Mansions Above*.....*arr. Roland Carter*

**III. The Anthem**

*O Divine Redeemer*.....*Charles Gounod*

*Praise the Lord (all ye nations)*.....*A. Randegger*

*God and God Alone*.....*arr. Tom Fettke*

**INTERMISSION**

**IV. Spoken Word - Professor Vincent D. Stringer**

**V. Inspired by Hymnal**

*More Love to Thee*.....*William Doane*

*My Jesus, I Love Thee*.....*arr. Phillip McIntyre*

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*.....*arr. Nathan Carter*  
*Robert Brown, tenor*

**VI. The Gospel**

*Jesus, You're the Center of My Joy*.....*Richard Smallwood*  
*Jay (Eros) DeVaughn, baritone*

*He Has Done Marvelous Things*.....*UNKNOWN*  
*Treston Codrington, tenor*

**VII. Finale**

*CHORAL BENEDICTION*.....*Total Praise*.....*Richard Smallwood*  
*Stephanie Powell, choreographer*

**Dr. Marcus D. Smith, accompanist - Mr. Bobby Harris, timpani**  
**Mr. Marvin Miller, drums - Dr. Marco K. Merrick, director**

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and like us on Facebook

# CHOIR HIGHLIGHTS



<b>2013</b>	<b>Choir held ceremony and sang at MLK, Jr Memorial on the Mall in Washington, DC</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Made its debut at Morgan State University performing with the Hall Men of Calvert Hall College High School and The Singing Sensations of Baltimore</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>Choir featured during the opening ceremony of The National Urban League Convention in Baltimore at New Shiloh Baptist Church</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>The annual fall concert “Africa is Calling Thee”, took place in Baltimore’s Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, where more than 3000 people attended with hundreds more turned away because of the large crowd</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>The choir embarked on its first international tour, performing in Rome, Italy before standing room only audiences, replete with emotional responses and resounding ovations for more</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>The choir was presented in its debut in the world-renowned Carnegie Hall in New York City to a sold out audience, meeting with outstanding critical acclaim in New Yorker Magazine. Also held its annual fall concert in the nations first Cathedral, Baltimore’s Basicilica</b>
<b>2026</b>	<b>The choir will tour Atlanta, Georgia and present full concert in the world renowned historic Ebenezer Baptist Church</b>

# APPRECIATION/MEMORIAL

This page is dedicated to the lives and legacies that inspire our mission.

- In Memory of Thelma Craig Smith
- In Loving Memory of William and Denice Baylor
- In Loving Memory of Brenda Smith Jones
- In Loving Memory of Larry Jay Smith
- In Loving Memory of Jean Elizabeth Brawner-Lewis  
Forever in Our Hearts - Tiffannie Farrington and Family
- In Memory of Carey Lee Craig, Sr.
- In Memory of Georgianna Rustin Craig
- In Memory of Sarah Craig Johnson
- In Memory of Ann Craig Jackson
- In Memory of Thomas Lee Craig
- In Memory of Carey Lee Craig
- In Memory of Eva Craig Sydnor
- In Loving Memory of my mother Mrs. Lillie Page Hall, your wisdom continues to guide me
- In Loving Memory of my aunt Dalmutha "Dal" Dammons, you were inspiration to us all
- In Memory of Marie Craig Austin
- In Memory of Mary Craig
- In Memory of Ruth N. Craig
- In Memory of Doris Craig Young
- In Memory of Thelma Craig Smith
- In Memory of Rev. John Preston Wilson - Itinerant Elder, Linguist, Teacher and Father of Jean Wilson Richie and Joan Wilson Collins
- Mrs Sadie Burrell Wilson -Treasurer, Baltimore Conference Women's Missionary Society and Mother of Jean Wilson Richie and Joan Wilson Collins
- Rev. Mrs Mary Harrison Wilson - Associate Minister, Bethel Baltimore, Teacher and Mother of Rev. John Preston Wilson
- In loving Memory of my father Rev Josiah Hall, ex-Pastor Enon Baptist Church

In Honor of Elizabeth E Craig  
In Honor of Albert Blagman

In Honor of Scott Baylor  
In Honor of Tiffannie Farrington

## Patrons

Jill Baylor

Brittany Lewis Strickland

Brianne Pitts

Broderick Pitts

Brandon Pitts



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**Stephanie Lewis Pitts**  
**Former Student**



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*Restore the Village, Care for all, Hope for all Generations.*

# *Original Education Committe Members*

## **Melbourne L. Tillis Lay Organization**

In 2023, the Education Committee of the Melbourne L. Tillis Lay Organization at Bethel AME Church established a circle of members to support the Samuel Coleridge - Taylor Elementary School in activities that would promote the school’s pursuits to become the designated “elementary arts school” in Baltimore City Public School System. That Original committee consisted of the following members:

**Ronald N. Flamer, Chairperson**

**Cleveland Brister**

**Joseph Smith**

**Jill Baylor**

**Dr. Delaphine R. Green**

**Jean Wilson Richie**



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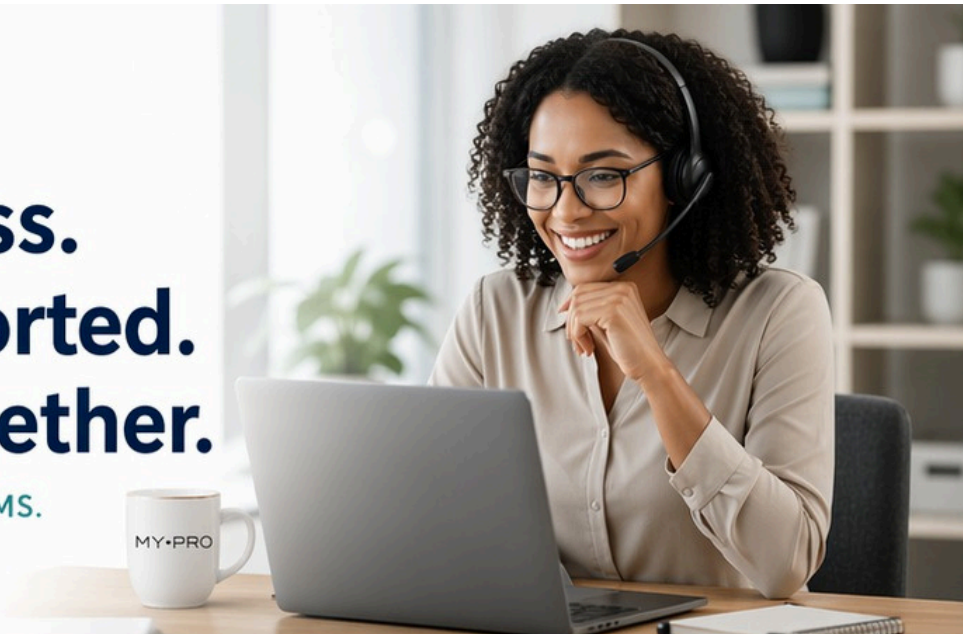
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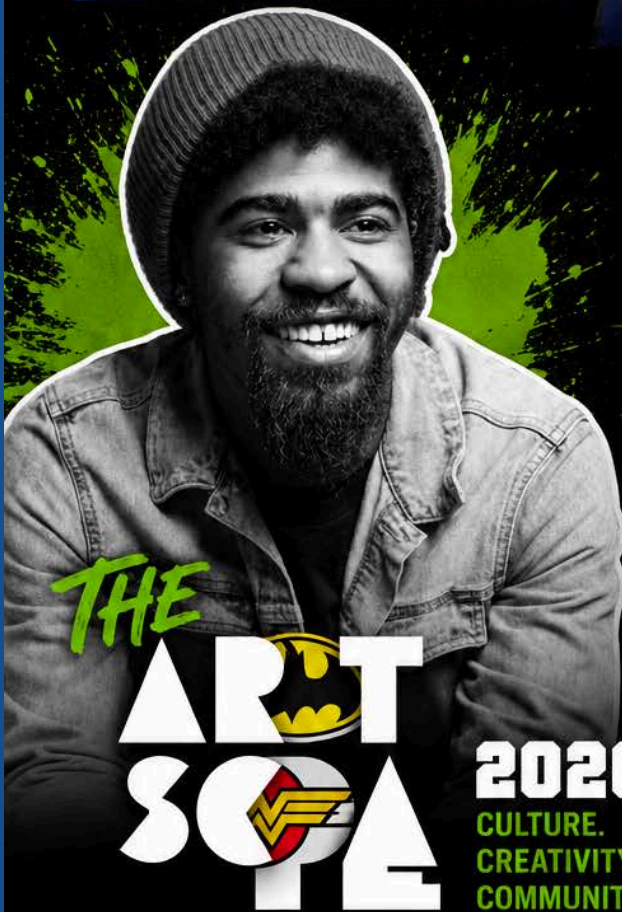
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# Honoring 100 years of service, education and community.

The **University of Maryland Medical System** (UMMS) is proud to support Harmony for a Cause and celebrate 100 years of the Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School. For generations, the school has been a cornerstone of the West Baltimore community, inspiring students, supporting families, and creating opportunities for success. As a proud community partner, UMMS is honored to recognize this remarkable legacy and join in building a brighter future for the students and neighborhoods it continues to serve.

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*Rev. Patrick D. Clayborn, Ph.D.*



*Thank  
You!*



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