



QUINDECINNIAL

PASTORAL

*Celebration*

of

THE REVEREND JAMES C. SIMMONS

BABER AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Table of Contents

About Pastor Simmons	Pages 3-4
Photo Tribute	Page 5
The Ministerial Staff	Page 6
The Bailey Class	Page 7
The Bess Class	Page 8
Bethel AME Church- Buffalo	Page 9
The Coley Class	Page 10
Baber Deltas	Page 11
Rochester Alumnae Delta Chapter	Page 12
Hart	Page 13
In Memory of Anne Henderson	Page 14
Baber Kappas	Page 15
The Smith Family	Page 16
The Washington Family	Page 17
The Baber Stewardship & Finance	Page 18
Harlems Automotive, LLC	Page 19
Israel AME Church- Albany	Page 20
The Thomas Davis Lay Organization	Page 21
Outreach Community Center, Inc	Page 22
Rev. Dr. Melany Silas	Page 23
The Senior Usher Board	Page 24
The Senior Board of Stewards	Page 25
St. John AME Church- Niagara Falls	Page 26
Mother Bethel AME Church	Page 27
Ward Memorial AME Church	Page 28
The Wilson Class	Page 29
The Baber YPD	Page 30
Payne AME Church- Chatham	Page 31
Theta Omicron Scholarship- Omegas	Page 32
The Board of Trustees	Page 33
Sister Verniece Smiley-Delahanty	Page 34

# About Pastor Simmons

The Reverend James C. Simmons is the senior pastor of Baber African Methodist Episcopal Church and chairman of Rise Up Rochester, Incorporated. Born in Waynesboro, PA, Reverend Simmons received his Bachelor of Science in public administration and policy from Howard University, Washington, DC, and his Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary at American University, Washington, DC.

Reverend Simmons was called to preach at age nine and received his first pastoral appointment to Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Schenectady, New York at age 23. Under his leadership at Bethel the church membership quintupled, the music department expanded, the first person in the history of the church was called to preach, and the church was on the forefront of social justice issues.

On June 10, 2010, Reverend Simmons was appointed to the pastorate of Baber African Methodist Episcopal Church in Rochester, New York. His 14-year pastoral tenure – Baber's longest – is credited with Baber's financial and administrative resurrection: four mortgages have been paid off and the church is now 100% debt free. The church has created several ministries such as the Garden District Development Corporation and completed numerous capital projects.

Prior to his appointment to the senior pastorate, Reverend Simmons served as the Minister to Youth and Young Adults at Ward Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church, Washington, DC, under the pastorate of the Reverend Dr. Conrad K. Pridgen, and he served as a chaplain intern at the Petersburg Federal Correctional Center.

Reverend Simmons is the treasurer of the Western New York Annual Conference, Chairman of the Western New York Conference Board of Examiners, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and is the former Dean of the Ministerial Institute. He is the former secretary of the First District Self Help, Incorporated Board of Directors.

In Rochester, he is the chairman of Rise Up Rochester, Incorporated (RUR), a nonprofit that provides wraparound services, housing services, support groups for families of homicide victims, and intercommunal violence mediation and resolution services to victims of violence. Under his chairmanship, Rise Up Rochester, Inc. expanded from one of the ministries of the church to a separate 501(c)(3) with a full and part time staff of 14. Reverend Simmons is also an adjunct professor at Monroe Community College and a member of the Greater Rochester Health Foundation Board of Directors.

He is one of the founders and former political action committee chairman of the Faith Leaders Roundtable, and former chairman of the Faith Leaders Caucus of Roc/ACTS (Alliance of Communities Transforming Society).

Reverend Simmons has received numerous awards such as the key to the city of Rochester, the Alpha Kappa Alpha, Great Lakes Region, Social Justice Award and the Community Service Award from Haggai Chapter #41, Royal Arch Masons. In high school, he served as president of the largest student vocational organization in the state of Pennsylvania – the Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America – with a membership in excess of 12,000.

Each day Reverend Simmons strives to live out his favorite scripture: “trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”



**BABER AFRICAN METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

# ***Congratulations***

**The Reverend James C. Simmons**

**ON FIFTEEN YEARS OF DEDICATED  
SERVICE TO BABER AME CHURCH**

**From The Ministerial Staff  
Of Baber**

**The Ministerial Staff:**

**The Reverend Melanie Moore  
The Reverend Frances Rogers  
The Reverend Dion Greer  
The Reverend Alexis Lowers  
Licentiate Robert I. Dubose**



**The Reverend  
James C. Simmons**  
*Pastor*

**Rev. James C.  
Simmons**



**Congratulations  
from the Bailey  
class on your  
Quindecennial  
Pastoral  
Celebration!**

**May you have many, many  
more years here at Baber.  
You are truly a role model for  
our adults and children.**

**15 Years and Counting**



# Happy 15th Pastoral Anniversary

Romans 10:15

## PASTOR

### James C. Simmons

Baber

African Methodist Episcopal  
Church

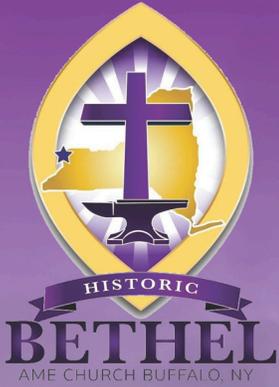


**Sis. Elaine Bess, Class Leader**

Dr. Charmaine Cohen  
Sis. Etta J. Cohen  
Bro. Jazmere Cohen  
Sis. Betty Crews  
Bro. Eugene Crews  
Sis. Finis Cuylear  
Bro. Adolph Dupree  
Bro. Joel Fields

Sis. Kim Gause  
Sis. Deidre Goolsby  
Bro. Eugene Goolsby  
Sis. Delmarisha Majors  
Sis. Catherine Parker  
Sis. Katherine Reid  
Sis. Rhondalynn Richards  
Bro. Terrance Richards

Bro. Terrell Richards  
Bro. Terry Richards  
Mother Ellen Ricks  
Dr. Vernice Smiley-Delahanty  
Sis. Phyllis Thompson  
Bro. Thomas Whitt  
Sis. Christine Woffard-Gains



# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS & LOVING PEOPLE

**BEST WISHES FROM YOUR  
FRIENDS AT BETHEL BUFFALO**



**SUNDAYS:**  
8:30AM CHURCH SCHOOL  
9:30AM SERVICE

**TUESDAYS:**  
12PM BIBLE STUDY (IN-PERSON)

**WEDNESDAYS:**  
12PM BIBLE STUDY PODCAST  
▶: BETHEL BUFFALO



**PASTOR PAUL      LADY GENELL**

**1525 MICHIGAN AVENUE  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14209**

**716-886-1650  
WWW.BETHELBUFFALO.ORG**

# **Congratulations**

To

**The Reverend James C. Simmons**

Celebrating 15 Years as Pastor of

Baber African Methodist Episcopal Church

**The Coley Class Appreciates & Loves You!**

Sister Charlene Coley – Class Leader

Sis. Antionette Warren

Sis. Cherish Pender

Bro. Harold Wynn

Bro. Johnnie Coley

Sis. Iris Graves

Sis. Jani Washington

Bro. Jason McDonald

Sis. Joeann Flagg

Sis. LaShana Boose

Sis. LaShara Evans

Sis. Linda Nedd

Sis. Linda Washington

Bro. Luis Rivera

Bro. Mark Freeman

Bro. Master Glover

Sis. Pamela McLeod

Sis. Pamela Mensah

We are Thankful for God's Servant.

Reflecting the Character of Christ: Humility, Compassion,  
Integrity, Willingness to Serve and Faithfulness.

# *Congratulations!*

## *Rev. James C. Simmons*



We celebrate our Pastor, Reverend James C. Simmons on his  
Quindecennial Anniversary, at Baber A.M.E. Church!



### *Baber Deltas*

Sis. Lashana Boose  
Dr. Shetara Bouie  
Sis. Elona Charles-Wilson  
Sis. Venetia Cotton  
Dr. Charmaine Cohen

Sis. Emma Dixon  
Dr. Gayle Harrison  
Dr. Shanai Lee  
Sis. Rhondalynn Richards  
Sis. Donna Smith  
Sis. Deborah Warfield

THE ROCHESTER ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF  
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED  
WISHES A

# Happy Quindecennial Celebration to Pastor James C. Simmons

ROCHESTER ALUMNAE CHAPTER

SAVE THE DATE: RED WEEK • OCTOBER 2025

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF  
SISTERHOOD • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE • SOCIAL ACTION  
OCTOBER 9, 2025



Honoring The Barry C. Smith Family  
&  
Rev. James Simmons 15th Anniversary



May God continue to bless Baber AME  
With Love, Kenya, Aqauah & Family



## In loving memory of Anne Henderson

*who loved hearing Pastor James C. Simmons' sermons and  
fellowshipping with the beautiful women of Baber. I am sure  
that Anne is smiling at Pastor Simmons, and that she is  
congratulating him on his special gala event for his  
15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Baber AME Church.*



# BABER AME CHURCH KAPPA ALPHA PSI



*Happy 15<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary*

## REVEREND JAMES C. SIMMONS

On this special milestone, the men of Kappa Alpha Psi from Baber AME Church would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication and inspirational leadership.

Over the past 15 years, you have been a beacon of light and hope, guiding us with wisdom and love. Your commitment to our community and spiritual growth has been truly transformative.

We celebrate not only your achievements but also the profound impact you've made in our lives.

Here's to many more years of shared faith and fellowship!



# CONGRATULATIONS

to my brother and sister Barry & Donna Smith and

## BABER A.M.E CHURCH



ON  
CELEBRATING

**REV. JAMES G. SIMMONS**

ON HIS

**15<sup>th</sup>**

**ANNIVERSARY**

AS YOUR PASTOR

**WHAT AN HONOR!**

1 Timothy 5:17

**Let the elders  
who rule well  
be counted  
worthy of  
double honor.**

Love your Smith Family



Congratulations Barry and Donna Smith  
and Baber A.M.E. Church on celebrating  
your Pastors' 15th Anniversary.

*Reverend  
James C. Simmons*

Thank You for being the great Shepherd  
you have been to our Rochester Family.  
May God continue to Bless you all in your  
ministries to Serve Him and Your  
Community.

God Bless,  
from the family of the  
Washingtons  
in CT, SC, NC and MD



**BABER AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
*THE COMMISSION ON STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE*

*"Write the vision and make it plain."  
-Habakkuk 2:2*

**CONGRATULATIONS  
PASTOR  
SIMMONS**

*Thank you for giving us the vision to guide us, and the freedom to  
implement the vision! In Jesus name, AMEN.*

**THE COMMISSION ON STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE**

Bro. Matthew Wilson, MD, Vice Chairperson, Trustee

Bro. Barry Smith, Chief Financial Officer, Steward

Sis. Elona Charles- Wilson, Steward

Bro. Joe Thomas Jr, Trustee

Sis. Carolyn Bailey, Steward

Sis. Elaine Bess, Steward

Sis. Debra Warfield, At Large Member for 560 Meigs St



**HARLEMS AUTOMOTIVE LLC.  
USED CAR SALES**

**Congratulates  
Reverened James C. Simmons on  
his 15th Pastorial Anniversary at  
Baber AME Church**

Remembering your Work of Faith and Labor of Love  
1 Thessalonians 1:3



Owners: Zedrick and Elona Wilson  
11 Nash St, Rochester, NY 14605  
585-471-1294

The First Family of Israel AME Church

# Congratulates



REVEREND

*James C. Simmons*

On Your

**QUINDECENNIAL  
Pastoral Anniversary**

"AND HE GAVE SOME, APOSTLES; AND SOME, PROPHETS; AND SOME, EVANGELISTS; AND SOME, PASTORS AND TEACHERS;  
FOR THE PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS, FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY, FOR THE EDIFYING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST."  
EPHESIANS 4:11-12

FIRST FAMILY of ISRAEL AME CHURCH

Rev. Kevin T. Taylor, Pastor | Sis. Emily A. Taylor, First Lady  
Bro. Luke D. Taylor, First Son | Sis. Laurel A. Taylor, First Daughter

Follow Us On  



381 Hamilton St., Albany, NY 12210

Worship with us In-person on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or join us virtually via **Facebook Live**,  
**Zoom** or dial (646) 558-8656 and use Meeting ID: 812 8622 8670 and PW: 381379



With warmest thoughts and well  
wishes

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR PASTOR

*Quindecennial  
Anniversary  
as Pastor*

THOMAS DAVIS LAY  
ORGANIZATION



**Outreach Community Center, Inc.**

Herman L. Dailey, Founder  
447 Genesee St, Rochester, NY 14611  
(585) 328-0887

# *Congratulations*

A  
to  
**The Reverend James C.  
Simmons**

as you celebrate your Quindecennial Pastoral at  
Baber African Methodist Episcopal Church.

*May God continue to bless you and your Baber Family.*

**Bishop Herman & Lady Elaine Dailey  
and Outreach Community Center Family**

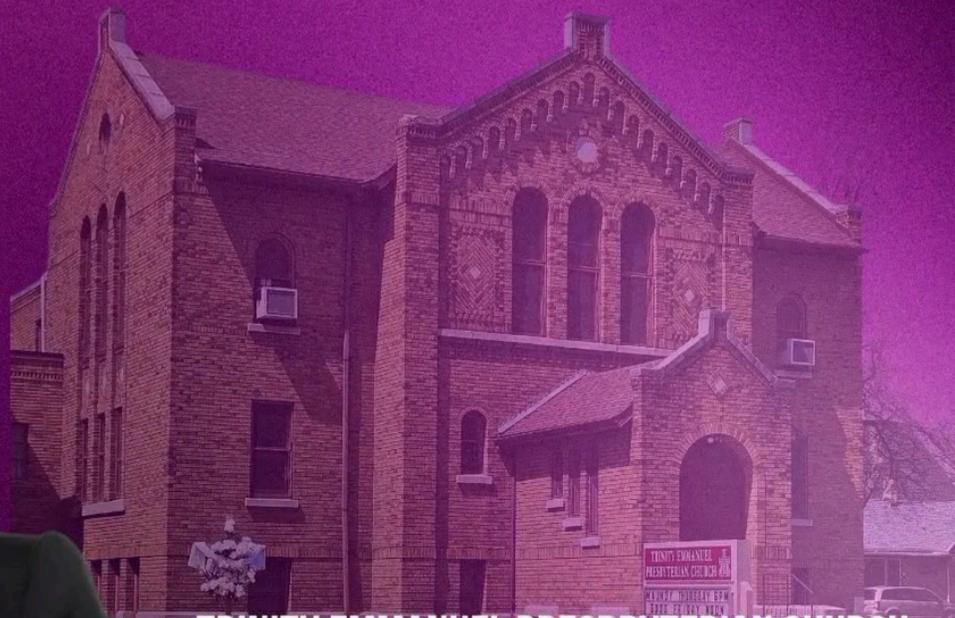


TRINITY EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Congratulates*

**THE REVEREND  
JAMES C. SIMMONS**

on celebrating 15 years at Baber  
AME Church, to the glory of God!



**TRINITY EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
9 SHELTER ST, ROCHESTER NY 14611  
REV. DR. MELANY J. SILAS-CHANDLER, PASTOR**



**THE BABER A.M.E. CHURCH  
SENIOR USHER BOARD**

*Congratulations!*



**PASTOR SIMMONS**

For being our Spiritual Leader for fifteen years at Baber A.M.E.  
We pray that the Lord will continue to bless in the years to come.

**From The Senior Usher Board**

**BABER AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
THE SENIOR BOARD OF STEWARDS

*Congratulates*

**THE REVEREND**  
**JAMES C. SIMMONS**

ON 15 YEARS OF UNWAVERING SERVICE, SPIRIT-LED LEADERSHIP, AND CHRIST-CENTERED VISION.

**THE BOARD OF STEWARDS**



SIS. CAROLYN  
BAILEY



SIS. ELAINE  
BESS



SIS. ELONA  
CHARLES-WILSON



SIS. CHARLENE  
COLEY



SIS. MATTE E.  
RUTH



BRO. THOMAS  
DEMOND



BRO. BARRY  
SMITH



SIS. YVONDRIA  
THOMAS



SIS. ANN  
WILSON



DR. LISA  
YOUNG



**BABER AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
550 MEIGS STREET,  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14607  
THE REVEREND JAMES C. SIMMONS, PASTOR

Reverend James C. Simmons



Congratulations on your Quindecennial Pastoral Celebration as  
the Under Shepherd of Baber AME Church

Your unwavering love, steadfast dedication, and deep  
commitment to the Baber family and the Rochester community  
speak volumes. Through countless hours of service and  
compassionate leadership, you have guided, uplifted, and inspired  
God's people. Your ministry reflects a profound devotion to faith  
and fellowship, enriching lives and strengthening the spiritual  
foundation of all those you serve.



*being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you  
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

*~ Philippians 1:6*



## SAINT JOHN

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
The OLDEST Black Church in Niagara Falls, New York  
917 Garden Avenue & Richard Allen Way  
Niagara Falls, New York 14305

Rev. Makeeda E. Brooks  
Pastor





*Congratulations to*

**REV. JAMES C. SIMMONS**

*for 15 years of dedicated and committed  
Pastoral Leadership to the*

**BABER AME CHURCH, ROCHESTER, NY**

*May God continue to Bless You and Keep You!*

[www.MOTHERBETHEL.org](http://www.MOTHERBETHEL.org)

419 6TH STREET | PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147

THE REVEREND CAROLYN C. CAVANESS, 53<sup>RD</sup> PASTOR

*A Celebration of Ministry*  
*Honoring Rev. James Clifton Simmons*  
*Pastor of Baber AME Church*  
*15 Years of Faithful Service*

*“And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.” – Jeremiah 3:15*

FROM YOUR EARLY BEGINNINGS WITH THE YOUTH OF WARD MEMORIAL AME CHURCH UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF REV. CONRAD K. PRIDGEN, TO YOUR CURRENT ROLE AS PASTOR OF BABER AME CHURCH, YOU HAVE LED WITH PURPOSE, PASSION, AND UNWAVERING FAITH.

YOU’VE EMPOWERED YOUTH, TRANSFORMED LIVES, AND CREATED POWERFUL MINISTRY EXPERIENCES—ALWAYS REMINDING US THAT GOD LIVES WITHIN EACH OF US. TODAY, WE CELEBRATE YOUR JOURNEY, YOUR CALLING, AND THE COUNTLESS WAYS YOU’VE IMPACTED OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY.

*Congratulations, Rev. Simmons!*

*With love and pride,*

*Your Ward Memorial AME Church Family*

The Wilson Class  
**Congratulates Our Pastor**  
**The Reverend James C. Simmons**

As we celebrate his Quindecennial Pastoral  
at  
Baber African Methodist Episcopal Church

**We pray God continues to strengthen and guide  
you as you lead Baber to higher heights.**

Ann Wilson: Class Leader

Bobby Wynn  
Connie Knight  
Debra Cray  
Elizabeth Ruth  
Ellen Ricks  
Gwen Woodall  
Janet Sherrill  
Jocelyn Gaston

John Pulhamas  
Kimberly Gause  
Lynette Williams  
Reggie Sherrill  
Rochelle Slater  
Ruthie Brown  
Sharon Smith

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his, we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations.

**Psalm 100 NIV**

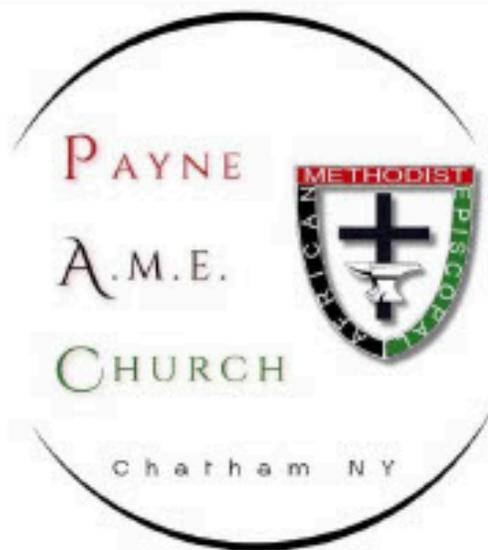
CONGRATULATE  
**PASTOR  
SIMMONS**

**15 YEARS  
STRONG**

LOVE  
**BABER**

**YPD**





6 High Street ~ Chatham, New York 12037

Phone: 518.392.2585

Email: [payneamechurch@fairpoint.net](mailto:payneamechurch@fairpoint.net)

The Rt. Reverend Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.  
*Presiding Prelate*

The Reverend Dr. Faye Banks Taylor  
*Presiding Elder*

*The Reverend Paulette A. Adams, Pastor*

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**PASTOR JAMES C. SIMMONS**  
**ON YOUR**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY**

**"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!  
You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in  
charge of many things. Come and share your  
master's happiness!'" Matthew 25:23**

**Love,**  
**Pastor Paulette A. Adams**  
**&**  
**The Payne AMEC Family**





THETA OMICRON SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION  
www.toscholarship.org



*Theta Omicron Scholarship Foundation and the  
Omega Men of Baber wish  
Reverend James C. Simmons  
Happy\_QUEndecennial!*

CURRENT BROTHERS OF BABER	FORMER BROTHERS OF BABER * Omega Chapter (Deceased Brother)	
Bro Milton Banks	Bro Johnny Anderson *	Bro . John Brooks
Bro Terrance Richards	Bro Larry Clayton	Bro Herb Wilson
Bro. Joe L. Thomas, Jr.	Bro. Clint Strickland*	Bro. Maijied Eason
	Rev. Bro. John H. Dixon*	

*70<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Clambake*  
ACHIEVEMENT WEEK CELEBRATION

*Save the Date*

15 NOVEMBER  
2025

JOSEPH FLOREANO  
ROCHESTER CONVENTION CENTER  
123 E. MAIN STREET  
ROCHESTER, NY

*The Lord shall command his Blessing upon all  
that thou settest thine hand unto.*

*Deuteronomy 28:8*

**BABER A.M.E.**

**TRUSTEE BOARD WISHES  
PASTOR JAMES C. SIMMONS  
A HAPPY 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

	<b>Joe L. Thomas, Sr.</b>	<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	
<b>Johnny Coley</b>	<b>Elwood Easter</b>	<b>Leroy Easter</b>	<b>Anthony Girdano</b>
<b>Regina Grice</b>	<b>Connie Knight</b>	<b>Terrance Ricks</b>	<b>Melvin Ruth</b>
<b>Brian Smith</b>	<b>Norman Sullivan</b>	<b>Joe L. Thomas, Jr</b>	<b>Matthew Wilson</b>
	<b>Johnny Wynn</b>		

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**REV. JAMES C. SIMMONS**  
**ON YOUR 15<sup>TH</sup> PASTORIAL ANNIVERSARY**  
**AT**  
**BABER AME CHURCH**

**MANY THANKS FOR ALL  
THAT YOU DO!**

**Proverbs 16:3**  
**Commit your work to the Lord, and your  
plans will be established.**

**Vernice Smiley-Delahanty and Family**

WV