

VISION MAGAZINE



REFRESH

2024

George E. Hurtt
Senior Pastor

Pastor's Pen

Praise God for allowing Mt. Sinai Church to make it to 2024 despite our flaws and failures. Please pause and take a moment and thank God for another year of life and possibilities. The Lord still has more work for us. This year, our theme will be "Refresh." It is the final year of a three-year strategic plan entitled "The Nehemiah Project." In the previous two years, the themes were Restore (2022) and Revive (2023). God has been faithful. So, let us lean on God to execute the goals and strategy to honor the mission and vision of Mt. Sinai Church this year.

How will we do this? It starts with prayer. Our spiritual formation ministry will guide the pastoral commitment to prayer at Mt. Sinai. Then, we will harden our commitment to the Word of God. The Word of God will be preached and taught on Sunday morning and Tuesday Night in the Truth services, weekend seminars, small groups, Sunday School, and various digital discipleship platforms.

God is worthy of our worship. This includes music but is not limited to our formal worship times together through music. We must also cultivate worship that honors God with our life, wealth, and lips. Our ministries and fellowship group will aim for life-on-life discipleship. We will not just do ministry work but rest in the work of God together. This means the development of leaders and the recruiting and retaining of members for ministry work. Our fellowship group will foster community and endorse God-honoring fun times through fellowship.

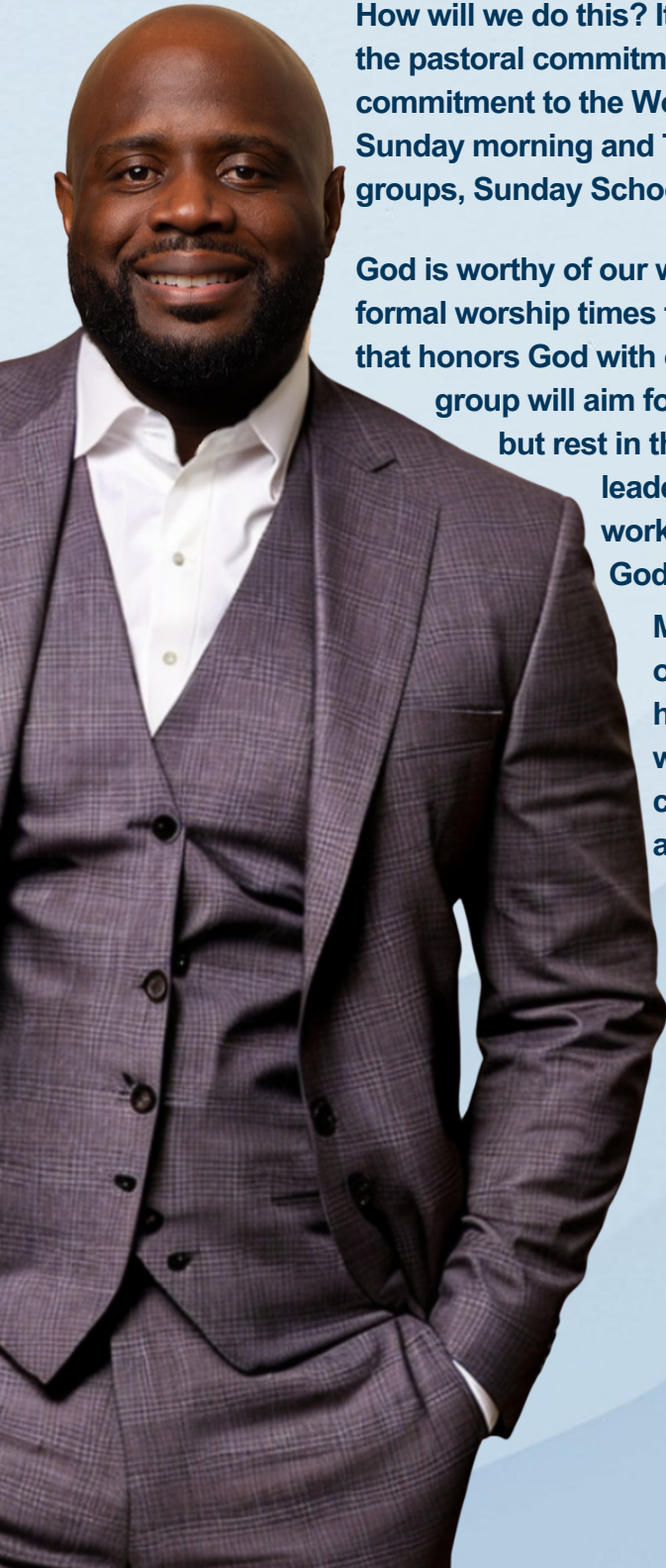
Mt. Sinai Church is committed to the total life development of our family and friends. Therefore, we want people to have outstanding mental and physical health. Our mental wellness and fitness ministries will be emphasized and celebrated to ensure our church's mind, body, and soul are being addressed.

There is so much that I am trusting God to do this year in our church. As your Senior Pastor, I find it vital to take a sabbatical for 90 days this season. I sincerely pray for our church to grow in giving, membership, and impact while I am away twice this year for 45 days at a time. A page in this magazine explains this time of rest, relaxation, and refocus for your Senior Pastor. It also details vital information about our vision this year. God be praised for another year that God has given us a chance to get it right.

Let us be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain. Let's go!

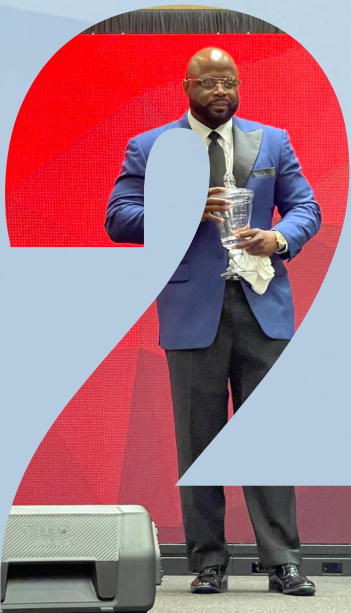
George E. Hurtt

PASTOR-TEACHER



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- Baptisms resumed with three candidates
- Eleven new members received the Right Hand of Fellowship
- New Member Classes resumed
- The return of All-Night Prayer meeting
- In-person Tuesday morning prayer meetings
- Relief from the COVID-19 pandemic and lifting of pre-registration and check-ins
- 14th Pastoral Anniversary and 81st Church Anniversary
- Pastor Hurtt received the WHW Preacher's Cup Award
- Lunch & Learn Series to educate the church and community
- The development of the Spiritual Formation Team and Journal Club
- Completed the first two phases of the remodeling of the Fellowship Hall into a State Of The Art Community and Event Center
- Transportation Ministry resumed and new Sprinter van
- At-home Communion for convalescent members resumed
- Sermon-Based Small Groups
- Launched a new Marriage Ministry
- Launched a new College Student group
- Sunday School relaunched for Children and Youth
- Summer STEAM Camp
- New sound engineer and team
- Trunk and Treat for children (alternative to Halloween)
- Development of the Fitness Ministry and monthly fitness challenges
- Media efforts and connecting people in virtual space
- Mental Health Emphasis Sunday
- Mental Health Workshops in the Fall
- Easter/Resurrection Services and return of Praise Dance participation
- Family Weekend, Comedy Night, and off-site combined service
- Partnership with World Vision's Chosen for child sponsorship
- Financial Stewardship Month
- Expanded services through the ACTS Support Group for Caregivers
- Holiday Services and outreach
- Sponsored Angel Tree children and supported Covenant House Christmas gifts for youth
- Thanksgiving Outreach, support for Sinai families, and LA Mission
- Supported three organizations during social emphasis on breast cancer awareness, domestic violence awareness, and bullying prevention
- Leadership Development



Pillars & Strategic Plan

Worship: Our Passion for Praise!

Objective: *To glorify God through enhanced presentation and preparation of our sound of worship.*

- A. Preaching on Sunday morning will aim even more to produce change personally and corporately.
- B. Music ministry will provide spiritual soundtrack for church.
- C. Church will invest financial resources into in-house and guest musicians.
- D. Special Services & Emphasis will be used to better focus on certain worship themes.
- E. Staff will continue to meet every other week to evaluate weekly worship services.

Evangelism: Our Passion for People!

Objective: *To seek those who are lost by emphasizing that all people matter to God.*

- A. Utilize the Remember the Poor Initiative to support widows, parents, benevolence, and holiday outreach.
- B. Invest in Outreach Projects & Partners to expand the gospel and display the love of Christ.
- C. Continue Early Learning Center that gives our children a Christian worldview in their preparation for formal academic training.
- D. Expand our Branding & Communication Systems such as Media Plan, Mt. Sinai TV, and Mt. Sinai Store to spread the gospel directly and indirectly.

Discipleship: Our Passion for Progress!

Objective: *To foster spiritual growth through the teaching and preaching of God's Word.*

- A. Discipleship Groups/Classes for various demographic groups using traditional and video-based studies
- B. Youth Discipleship via Candid Conversations, Tutoring, STEAM Camp, and College Preparation
- C. Develop a parent group and supportive service such as childcare to offer time of rest
- D. Strengthen ties with Small Businesses and Promote Entrepreneurship and Networking through Special Events such as Small Business Sunday
- E. Resume Noonday Bible Study, with an Emphasis on Reaching our Senior Saints
- F. Tuesday Nights in the Truth; Refresh Revival; Thanksgiving Revival; and Special Worship Services
- G. Book of the Month will continue. Books that supplement growth each month will be suggested and reviewed.

Fellowship: Our Passion for Partnership!

Objective: *To create an atmosphere where healthy relationships can be built among friends and members of this church.*

- A. Promote Membership engagement using technology and social events that are safe from a public health perspective.
- B. Expand the use of Watch Care team so that new members can better adapt to the culture of our church.
- C. Improve assimilation process with special commission to address areas of concern.
- D. Enhance Pastoral Care Strategy by better using technology.

Ministry: Our Passion for Participation!

Objective: *To ensure involvement of all members and friends of Sinai church are collectively building God's kingdom.*

- A. Continue Leadership Meeting every other month to create unity and continuity among our ministry teams.
- B. Provide more Leadership Development opportunities for leaders.
- C. Promote and participate in Virtual Leadership Conferences

Administration: Our Commitment to Professionalism

Objective: *To perform church operations effectively, efficiency and in the spirit of excellency.*

- A. Trust God for full participation and commitment to support the "The Nehemiah Project" so that we can accomplish the goals and objectives.
- B. Increase our annual budget to do more for God's kingdom.
- C. Be intentional about improving the morale of our staff through better pay, time off and support of their mental and physical health.

The Necessity Of The Pastor's Sabbatical

What is a pastoral sabbatical? A pastoral sabbatical is a time off for rest and/or study given to a pastor to provide rest and rejuvenation. It also can be used for study. It is not an extended vacation or imposed leave of absence for disciplinary reasons. It is for extended Sabbath rest. The pastor steps away from preaching, leading, and ministering. It is a time for the pastor to “do nothing” and an opportunity to experience affirmation for past service. Sabbaticals have been found to contribute to longer tenure at churches and provide an opportunity for other church leaders to step up and lead. It also helps prevent burnout and disqualification. God’s church dramatically benefits from a pastoral sabbatical.

Churches attended by primarily African Americans are unfamiliar with the philosophy and practice of pastoral sabbaticals. This is caused by unhealthy expectations of the Senior Pastor, financial flexibility, and unwillingness of both the pastor and the church.

Our church has secured a financial grant that covers 75% of the expenses needed to pay for this upcoming pastoral sabbatical fully. We will also teach staff, leaders, and members about how this sabbatical will work and what is required of them to secure its success. I have known for years the need for this sabbatical to focus on family, rest, writing, and preparing for future years of ministry. Mt. Sinai’s staff, leaders, and members must develop their passion for their Senior Pastor to rest, revive, and relax while doing ministry fully.

When will the pastoral sabbatical take place? It will take place for 90 days total in two parts. The first portion will be from Monday, May 19th, until Sunday, June 30th. The other period will be from Monday, August 5th until Sunday, September 22nd. This is not a time for the mice to play because the cat is away. It is a time for the cream to rise to the top. God expects every staff member, leader, and member to be even more involved in the well-being of Mt. Sinai Church. I will not preach, teach, hold meetings, or any other pastoral responsibility. This does not include emergencies or Spirit-led exceptions. Please respect this time and embrace the challenge of growing our church this season. I trust God that you and our church will experience growth during and after this pastoral sabbatical.

Pastor George



Prayer Plan & Ministry of the Word

THE PRAYER PLAN

“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.”
- Luke 18:1

Our Spiritual Formation Ministry is spearheading many of the church-wide prayer initiatives and events. We invite Mt. Sinai family and friends to join us during the following dedicated times of prayer.

Prayer Emphasis Week

January 29 – February 3

Following a sermonic presentation aimed to help us focus on prayer, we will spend a week engaged in special prayer meetings (on the prayer line and in person). There will also be a special service for Tuesday in the Truth and a new 1-hour prayer challenge where all are encouraged to spend one hour praying with family or friends. We will end Prayer Emphasis Week with our first 5K Prayer Walk. It will serve three purposes: (1) walk for our physical well-being, (2) raise funds for the development of our Community & Event Center, and (3) pray for the unsaved, unchurched, and uncommitted.

Early Morning Prayer

The Early Morning Prayer schedule will commence the first week of February.

Monday:	6:00am-6:30am (Prayer Line)
Tuesday:	6:00am-7:00am (Onsite)
Wednesday:	6:00am-6:30am (Prayer Line)
Thursday:	6:00am-6:30am (Prayer Line)
Friday:	6:00am-6:30am (Prayer Line)

On the 1st Sunday of the month, we gather for pre-service prayer at 7:40am. There will be some planned breaks announced for the summer and December.

All Night Prayer Meetings

This year we will host two All Night Prayer Meetings. During these extended times of prayer (10:00pm-5:00am), we spend time not only in prayer, but also in the word, worship, testimonies, Bible activities, and more. The dates are June 21 and September 13.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”

-Romans 10:14

The following special sermon series are scheduled for 2024:

- F.O.C.U.S. Series (Various Scripture)
- Refresh Series (Nehemiah 11-13)
- I Can't Believe the Pastor is Talking About This
- Generosity Matters
- Is Your God Too Small

Discipleship & Evangelism

THE DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

“Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.” – Deuteronomy 31:12-13

- **Sunday School for Children, Middle School, and High School**
- **Small Groups for Adults on Tuesday Nights in September and October**
- **Women in the Word on Wednesdays in May**

Other discipleship opportunities and initiatives will be announced throughout the year.

THE EVANGELISM PLAN

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

Each quarter, there will be a training session, outreach project, and service specifically geared toward reaching the unsaved, unchurched, or uncommitted. Here are some dates to note:

Evangelism Training - January 19-20 - April 12-13 - July 19-20 - October 25-26	Do Church Sunday June 23 & September 15 FRANtastic Sunday June 30 Go to Church Sunday September 22 Friendship Sunday December 1
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Church Staff and Council

CHURCH COUNCIL



George E. Hurtt



E. Richey Jones



Todd Jones



Tyrone Stallings



Don Gray



Rev. Charles Charthern

**2024 Additions: Ronald Clayton, Chase Haley,
Donald Storey, Tyler Stoudemire, Tony Thompson**

CHURCH STAFF



George E. Hurtt
Sr. Pastor-Teacher



TaVon Morrison
Dir. of Church Admin.



Scharmaine White
Office Coordinator



Rev. Charles Charthern
Pastor of Discipleship & Strategic Development



Copelia Lightner
Chief Financial Officer



Aryssa Sanford
Executive Assistant to Sr. Pastor



Ronald Clayton
Dir. of Production & Digital Content



Erika Williams
ELC Director & Administrator

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24

Ministry Teams & Leaders

We believe every member of the Body of Christ has been given a function that will benefit the rest of the Body. Therefore, every member can find a place of service within the congregation so that we may glorify God, edify one another, and evangelize the world through our ministry teams and various outreach opportunities.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Our active ministry teams are listed below. For a complete description, visit www.sinai.church and click on **CONNECT**. To join a team, connect with a team leader, or find out more ways to serve, please complete the online form or contact the Church Office at 323-291-1121 or office@sinai.church.

ACTS Support Group for Caregivers

Team Leader(s): Sharon Melancon & Jeanie Harris

ALTAR GUILD MINISTRY SOS (Sisters of Service)

Team Leader(s): Debbie Gray

CHILDREN’S DIVISION KK (Kingdom Kids)

Team Leader(s): Tracy Goss

COUNSELING MINISTRY

Team Leader(s): Dr. Gloria Morrow

DEACONS MINISTRY MOS (Men of Servanthood)

Team Leader(s): Donald Storey

DOORKEEPERS MINISTRY (Steadfast Servants)

Team Leader(s): Rod Robinson & Aja Harris

FITNESS MINISTRY (Fit for the Kingdom)

Team Leader(s): Dawn Strozier

GRANT WRITING TEAM

Team Leader(s): Copelia Lightner

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY HWG (Hospitality without Grumbling)

Team Leader(s): Tina Williams

MEDIA MINISTRY MAC (Media & Communications)

Team Leader(s): Ronald Clayton

MUSIC MINISTRY

Team Leader(s): Copelia Lightner, Sabonn Thomas, & Lori Williams

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Team Leader(s): Vincente Miles

SENIOR MINISTRY SWP (Seniors With a Purpose)

Team Leader(s): Tina Williams

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY (Expansion of the Prayer Ministry)

Team Leader(s): Richey Jones

TRUSTEES MINISTRY TEAM TMT

Team Leader(s): Richey Jones

WATCHCARE MINISTRY TEAM WMT

Team Leader(s): Todd Jones & Tyrone Stallings

WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP

Team Leader(s): Dr. Gloria Morrow

WOMEN’S MINISTRY WOW (Women of Worship)

Team Leader(s): Makeba Stallings

YOUTH DIVISION

Y-O-U-T-H (Youth openly united thru Him)

Admin Contact: Rochelle Molson

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Key Events/Dates

1st QUARTER

JANUARY

- 7 – Commitment Sunday
- 14 – Vision Sunday
- 16 – TNT: Vision Night
- 19-20 – Evangelism Training
- 21 – Consecration Sunday
- 22-27 – Service Emphasis Week
- 23, 30 – TNT: Refresh Revival Service
- 29-2/3 – Prayer Emphasis Week

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

- 11 – Jersey & Jeans Sunday
- 13 – TNT: 15th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration
- 18 – African Apparel Sunday
- 20 – TNT: 15th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration
- 25 – 15th Pastoral Anniversary Sunday

MARCH

National Women's History Month

- 19 – TNT: Pre-Holy Week Revival
- 24 – Palm Sunday
- 26 – TNT: Holy Week Revival
- 29 – Good Friday
- 30 – Pre-Easter Service
- 31 – Resurrection Sunday

2nd QUARTER

APRIL

Forgiveness Emphasis Month

Autism Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month

- 2, 9, 16, 23 – TNT Lessons on Forgiveness
- 12-13 – Evangelism Training
- 21 – Autism Awareness Sunday
- 28 – Women's Emphasis Sunday
- 30 – Old School Revival

MAY

Mental Health Month, Foster Care Awareness Month

- 1, 8, 15, 22 29 – Women in the Word on Wednesdays
- 2 – National Day of Prayer
- 11 – Mother's Day Brunch
- 12 – Mother's Day
- 5/19-6/30 – Pastor's Sabbatical

JUNE

Men's Health Month

- 9 – Mental Health Emphasis Sunday
- 15 – Father's Day Brunch
- 16 – Father's Day
- 21 – All Night Prayer Meeting
- 23 – Do Church Sunday
- 28 – FRANTastic Comedy Night
- 29 – FRANTastic Outdoor Event
- 30 – FRANTastic Sunday

3rd QUARTER

JULY

Family Emphasis Month

- 8-13 – STEAM Camp
- 11 – Worship @ Life Pacific University
- 19-20 – Evangelism Training
- 7/29-8/2 – Vacation Bible School

AUGUST

- 3 – Back to School Prayer & Scholarship Brunch
- 4 – Acknowledgement of Graduates & Achievers
- 5-15 – Intern International Trip
- 8/5-9/22 – Pastor's Sabbatical

SEPTEMBER

Suicide Awareness & Prevention Month

- 8 – Grandparents Day
- 10, 17, 24 – TNT Small Groups on Spiritual Disciplines
- 13 – All Night Prayer Meeting
- 15 – Do Church Sunday
- 22 – Go to Church Sunday
- 29 – 82nd Church Anniversary

4th QUARTER

OCTOBER

Financial Emphasis Month

- 1 – TNT: 82nd Church Anniversary
- 3, 10, 17, 24 – Thursday Night Football/Men's Fellowship
- 6 – Small Business Sunday
- 8, 15, 22, – TNT Small Groups on Spiritual Disciplines
- 13 – Pink Sunday (Breast Cancer Awareness)
- 20 – Purple Sunday (Domestic Violence Awareness)
- 25-26 – Evangelism Training
- 27 – Orange Sunday (Bullying Prevention)
- 31 – Fall Festival or Trunk & Treat

NOVEMBER

National Family Caregivers Month

- 3 – Survivors Sunday
- 5, 12, 19, 26 – TNT: Thanksgiving Revival
- 28 – Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

- 1 – Friendship Sunday
- 13-24 – 12 Days of Christmas Outreach
- 24 – Christmas Eve Service
- 25 – Christmas Day
- 31 – New Year's Eve

Celebration of Life / In Memoriam

2020

Ms. Ida L. Sappington

Heavenly Transition 3/1/2020

Ms. Dora Fleming

Heavenly Transition 9/6/2020

Ms. Ethel L. Martin

Heavenly Transition 9/22/2020

Ms. Ruby Tenney

Heavenly Transition 11/29/2020

Mr. A.D Adams

Heavenly Transition 12/9/2020

2021

Mr. Prentis Bolden

Heavenly Transition 1/6/2021

Ms. Ruth F. Jefferson

Heavenly Transition 5/27/2021

Pastor Marvin E. Dean

Heavenly Transition 7/4/2021

Mr. Gerald Washington

Heavenly Transition 9/12/2021

Ms. Onetha S. Mosley

Heavenly Transition 11/16/2021

Mr. Johnnie C. Herron Jr.

Heavenly Transition 11/26/2021

2022

Mr. Austin W. Monroe Jr.

Heavenly Transition 1/7/2022

Ms. Billie Love Baugh

Heavenly Transition 2/2/2022

Mr. Alvin E. Benifield

Heavenly Transition 3/1/2022

Ms. Mary Ann Claiborne

Heavenly Transition 6/9/2022

Ms. Alice M. Patten-Burn

Heavenly Transition 9/24/2022

Ms. Gladys L. Curry

Heavenly Transition 12/12/2022

2023

Mr. Raymond J. Williams

Heavenly Transition 2/24/2023

Ms. Brenda Teele

Heavenly Transition 6/18/2023

Ms. Helen Barber

Heavenly Transition 12/15/2023

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

MT. SINAI CHURCH

Our Mission: To glorify God by winning more Christians
and developing better Christians



STAY CONNECTED



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