

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Dr. Rev. Emmitt Theophilus Caviness



Rev. E. Theophilus Caviness

Church, Community, Cleveland

Dr. Rev. Emmitt Theophilus Caviness, commonly known as “Rev. E.T. Caviness,” was born on May, 23, 1928 in Marshall, TX. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Bishop College, a historical black institution in Dallas, TX. and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Grove, MO.

Rev. Caviness first pastored the St. Mark Baptist Church in Pickton, TX. By 1961 he found his way to Cleveland to shepherd The Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church.

In Cleveland's Glenville Community, Rev. Caviness spread the word about social activism and spirituality. His friendship with Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his own beliefs in the power of nonviolent protest propelled Rev. Caviness to the forefront of activism in 1960s Cleveland. He was and continues to be an agent of change for Cleveland, playing an instrumental role in the election of African American politicians, including Carl Stokes as the first black mayor of a major U.S. city.

In addition, Rev. Caviness has served on the Executive Board of the Greater Cleveland Growth Association, the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Cleveland, the Planning Board of the Glenville Area Council, the Sewer Board of Cleveland, and worked with the former mayor George V. Voinovich.

For Kids!

How can you make a difference?