

# The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

July • 2022

(405) 478-3344

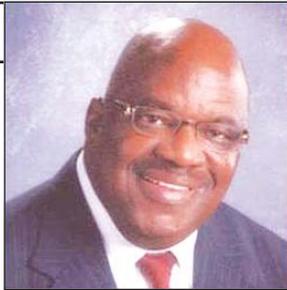
## The Pastor's Pen

*Beloved Members,*

As we prepare for the annual celebration of Independence Day, the iron curtain of mayhem continues to hang ominously over our nation. Week in and week out innocent citizens are victimized by some form of violence. I know the proliferation of this mindset can be discouraging but we have an alternative hope in God's Word.

May I remind us of one strong anchor that is hooked to our lives as an unbreakable life-line? We have the assurance that the ruler of universe has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. You see, God is a God of promises. From the first chapter of the Bible, Scripture makes a case for the dependability of God. Nine times the writer reiterates "God said." And without exception when God spoke, something happened. By divine fiat there were light, land, beaches, and creatures. We are left with one conclusion: God's word is sure and his promises can be trusted. What he says happens.

After 46 years in ministry, I've seen a lot of storms. And I've learned that in turbulent times like this, there is nothing more secure than the anchor of God's promises. We have this



*Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor*

hope as an anchor by which we can remain steadfast, unmovable and abounding. When the cynicism of these times overwhelms, pray to the one who is in charge, and know that in Christ we have an advocate with the Father.

And ponder this truth: Jesus, right now, at this moment, in the midst of whatever trouble we are facing, Jesus is speaking on your behalf. He is advocating for a special blessing to be sent our way. For we know, Apostle Paul says, all things are working together for our good. We do not fight the winds and waves alone. Every day he speaks up for you. He always lives to intercede for us.

Will God intervene? History reassures that He will. And perhaps he will do more than you and I imagine. Stand firmly on the promise that "when a believing person prays, great things happen" (James 5:16).

*Dr. M.L. Jemison*

## EVANGELISM MINISTRY

*Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister*

### Volunteer Sunday Friends and Family Day Sunday, July 24, 2022

THE ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY WILL CELEBRATE IT VOLUNTEERS AND FAMILIES AND FRIENDS DAY, SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2022 AT ITS 10:45 A.M. SERVICES. Evangelism and Prison Ministry will take the lead as the Church family takes time to celebrate excellence in volunteer service and as we celebrate the blessings and gifts of family and friends. We will have letters available to help you to invite our friends and family.

**AMONG THOSE CELEBRATED FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE/SALUTE THE FOLLOWING BY MONTH:**

**JULY 2021:** Judy Rackett, Shirlee Tomlin, Frances Grayson/ "HAND ME UP(S)"

**AUGUST 2021:** Margaret Dawson, Sandra Wallace / "EXCELLENCE IN DECORATIONS"

**SEPTEMBER 2021:** Ted Saxton/ "MEN'S MINISTRY TO CHARLES ATKINS..."

**OCTOBER 2021:** Robyn Washington "CHILDREN'S MINISTRY/ ALTERNATIVES TO HALLOWEEN"

**NOVEMBER 2021:** DeAndra Stevenson, Yolanda Whitlow "OKLAHOMA CITY TURKEY GIVE AWAY"

**DECEMBER 2021:** Dai'jon Powell "ANGEL TREE"

**JANUARY 2022:** Opal Floyd, Clara Rhone, Harvey Johnson "50 DAYS OF PRAYER"

**FEBRUARY 2022:** Rudie Valentine "SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND MECHANICS"

**MARCH 2022:** Mary Carey "MEMBER COVID 19 PANDEMIC COMMITTEE FOR PROTOCOLS"

**APRIL 2022:** Myron Knight "NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA CITY BIKING" / HEALTH & WELLNESS

**MAY 2022:** Ray McCormick "SAFETY AND SECURITY"

**JUNE 2022:** Tasha Miles, Linda Carter "FAMILY FUN DAY AND VBS 2022"

OUR MESSENGER FOR THESE CELEBRATIONS is our own Senior Pastor, Dr. Major L. Jemison. We can be proud of our Pastor and the Leadership given as we continue to navigate the Pandemic.

WE WILL BE LOOKING TO SEE YOU ON JULY 24, 2022 AT 10:45 A.M.

**You Tell Us ...  
We Tell Them.**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Submitted By Dr. Lawrence C. Kirk, Director of Christian Education

# There is a Stranger among us!

Everyone who has lived through the last few decades knows entertainment has exploded in popularity. Social Media, Video Games, Sports, Television, Movies, Books, and the Internet all compete for our free time. Depending on our interests, each of these mediums can be used to fulfill our desires and needs. This is a blessing for those with self-control, who can relax at the end of a long and tiring day. **Yet Satan has also found these things useful to corrupt the morals of our culture and change our way of life.** Paul's words regarding evil companionship apply to our entertainment today. "Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits" or "Bad company corrupts good mor-

als." (1Cor. 15:33-34 NASB; ESV). **Both the habits and morals of multitudes of people have been corrupted and coarsened by their choice of entertainment. Below is an article I found to be so true.**

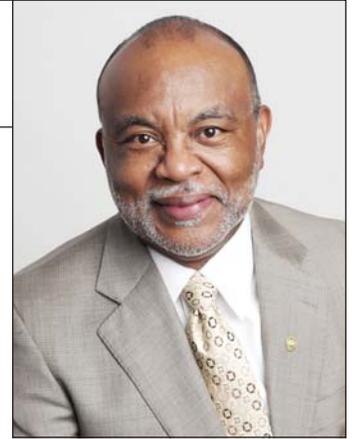
### STRANGER IN THE HOUSE

*A few months before I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.*

*As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a spe-*

*cial niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me the word of God, and Dad taught me to obey it. But the stranger? He was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies. If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind. Sometimes Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to her room and read her books. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)*

*Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home ... not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our long-time visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush. My Dad was a teetotaler who didn't permit alcohol in the home, not even for cooking. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, some-*



*times suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked ... and NEVER asked to leave. More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you were to walk into my parents' den today you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.*

*His name? We just call him TV. Author Unknown*

WOW! Isn't it amazing how subtle this stranger comes in and occupies us, leaving no time for God! I want to invite you to make a commitment to discipline yourself to joining one of our Christian educational offerings here at St. John. By committing ourselves in the word of God we can bring a halt to allowing this "stranger" to impact our moral and spiritual character. Contact me Dr. Lawrence Kirk at (405) 478-4433 or [Lckirk@stjohn\\_okc.org](mailto:Lckirk@stjohn_okc.org) and I will personally assist you in choosing a course of study for you.



## July Anniversaries

Edwards, Irene  
July 2, 1977 — 45 years

Dawson, David & Margaret  
July 20, 1974 — 48 years

Denson Jr, Harold & Glenda  
July 3, 1984 — 38 years

Loveless, Elleen  
July 21, 2007 — 15 years

Fleming, James & Nicole  
July 3, 2004 — 18 years

Easlick, Adrian & Mary  
July 23, 1977 — 45 years

Gardner, Richard & Renee  
July 11, 1965 — 57 years

Hayes, Raymond & Clara  
July 23, 1977 — 45 years

Anderson, James & Karen  
July 16, 1983 — 39 years

Emery, Shawn & Cecilia  
July 25, 1992 — 30 years

McCormick,  
Raymond & Janice  
July 18, 2015 — 7 years

DeMartra, Greg & Vernetta  
July 26, 1975 — 47 years

Wilson, Patrick & Angelia  
July 19, 2009 — 13 years

Barnett, Cheryl  
July 31, 1987 — 35 years

**You Tell Us ...  
We Tell Them.**

# WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny Emery, WMU President



POBSC Congress of Christian Education – Women’s Dept Chorus – They did a WONDERFUL job!



St. John WMU donates \$250 to Greenwood Cultural Center – Director Michelle accepts the donation

Happy July! Thank you WMU members and friends for all of your support during the month of June! It was a busy, awesome month full of fellowship, worship, and ministering to the needs of our congregation and our community.

Here are some of the highlights: The WMU shared in the Annual Women’s Day at True Reverence Baptist Church. They are new members of our Convention and we were excited to have the opportunity to worship with our sister church. Pastor and Sis. Jones welcomed us with open arms.

On Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, the WMU took an excursion to Tulsa. We visited the Greenwood Cultural Center, Greenwood Rising Museum, and ended our day together at Sunday Dinners and More. What a

wonderful time of learning, fellowship, great food, and renewal!

Our POBSC Congress of Christian Education was held June 20-22 at New Hope Baptist Church. We appreciate Sis. Brenda Perry participating with the Women’s Chorus and we appreciate Sis. Jacquie Jemison, Sis. Carole Walker, Sis. Alva Jean Ewing, and Sis. Kim Tomlin for representing the St. John WMU at this Annual Women’s Dept Night.

Lastly, we just concluded the POBSC SW Regional Convention at St. John. Each night we had a wonderful attendance and on Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, our very own Sis. Kim Tomlin was the featured Women’s Department Luncheon speaker. We had over 100 in attendance with over 30 St. John women supporting this great event. Thank



Sunday Dinners & More

you ladies AND gentlemen for your support this past month.

In the month of July, the WMU will continue to strive to reach our goal of 100% of dues paid! WMU Dues are \$24/year. Our target date to accomplish this is August 31, 2022.

We will also visit our sick and shut-in. Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am, the WMU will gather in the Fellowship Hall

to assemble yard signs to take to our sick and shut-in homebound members. We are calling this event, “The Parade of Love.” If you would like to assist us in visiting our homebound sick and shut-in, please let us know that you plan to join us. Again, the date is Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall of St. John Baptist Church.

## Technology Media/Digital Ministry

Submitted By Rev. Marcus Carruthers

### Online Community Engagement



Online continues to be the best “front door” and marketing tool.

75% of church visitors report checking out a church online to get a feel for the cul-

ture and experience before attending physically. Some call this the “front door” attendee. The goal for these viewers can be to connect them to a physical campus, encourage them to

continue to engage in online community, or both.

**It increases giving.**

Churches that offer online giving in addition to live streaming see an average annual giving

growth of 32%. Look for ways that you can maximize this by encouraging online giving in

(“Technology Media” continued on page 4)

# PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator



2022 W. K. Jackson Scholarship Recipients

Greetings to All!! Praying God's choice blessings upon each of you.

The June Parish Fellowship Quarterly Breakfast & Scholarship Award was a huge success. St. John, you showed up in grand style for the breakfast... over ninety (90) people in all attended for the purpose of fellowship and in support of our Dr. W.K. Jackson Scholarship recipients. Scholarship recipients were Zoe Hammonds, Mauresha Walker, Micah Gray and Elijah Miles. The message

delivered by Rev. Keith Carter, Youth minister, was relevant and challenging to the graduate's future.

Special thanks to April, May and June Parish Fellowship groups, Bro. Rudie Valentine, Sis. Ruby Nichols, Rev. Dawson and our Deacons. Next breakfast is scheduled for September 4th...see you then.

As always, let us continue to be in prayer for those on the sick and shut-in list. It is our goal that each member of St. John be contacted monthly by

their Parish Fellowship Coordinator or Group Leader. If you are not being contacted, please let us know so we can make adjustments to ensure you are connected to you and you to us monthly. Blessings to all!!

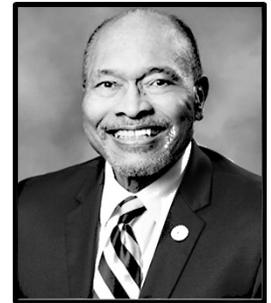


## HAPPY BIRTHDAY MEMBERS!!

**JULY MEMBERS**, it's your birthday month and we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!**

Let's give a birthday "shout-out" to Deacon Gus Embry, July PF Coordinator whose birthday is July 22nd. Thank you Deacon Gus for all you do.

I also want to also give a special "Shout-Out" to our July Deacons, Brothers Raymond McCormick, Reginald Richardson, Gregory McCoy and George Davis Jr. Thank you for all you do!!



Deacon Gus Embry

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome our new members who have completed orientation and received the Right Hand of Fellowship in June, 2022. **THEY ARE READY TO SERVE!!** We have more new members you'll learn about in the next Beacon!

1. Jon Tucker - April
2. Charmaine Tucker - October
3. Roshan White - August
4. Rev. Cherryll Doughty - April

## LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!

("Technology Media" continued from page 3)

your service and enabling easy ways to respond by giving.

### The geographic barrier has been removed.

When churches begin streaming, many are surprised to find that they have a new global reach! Along with the possibility of first-time guests, streaming is a great way for missionaries, military members, and others to continue to be involved in their local community. Geographic analytic tools, such as heatmaps, are a great way to visually display this global audience.

### It helps our church grow.

According to a recent Barna study, before Coronavirus hit the USA, 8-13% of churches reported growing. Now, **49% of churches are reporting growth.**

That means, churches now have more online attendance than they did in person + online just a few weeks ago. Building a digital strategy is now a key part of growth and is here to stay. **It provides fantastic return-on-investment.**

Live streaming is a simple way to reach a large audience with minimal cost and multiply

ministry resources for the greatest impact. Ministry dollars can go much further when a physical space is not required for every attendee and digital content is used instead of physical materials. Streaming costs is reasonable, compared to the increase in giving, the return is great.

It helps those that can't attend physically to stay engaged.

On average, people attend church once a month. For many, they would like to attend more often but are unable to due to work, school, children's sports

commitments, or other obligations. Streaming allows a continued connection to a church community even when they can't make it in person. Thank you St. John Family for having a vision to grow and reach the world for Jesus Christ. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 479-263-8363.

**You Tell Us ...  
We Tell Them.**



# Insights from the VIP “Seasoned Saints” Ministry

Submitted by Velma James Smith



*The Animated Fun Folks*



*The back-up singers*



*We sure enjoyed hearing some good gospel music as warm up to Motown tunes*



*Friends and first-timers joined the fun*

The VIPs had an encore great time at the Yellow Rose Theater June 25th as more than 60 of us experienced a fun filled evening of delicious food, fabulous company and the electrifying Shades of Motown performance. That night led me down memory lane with songs from my youth, prompting me to think about one of my favorite meditations from You Version. Psalm 103:5 “Who satisfieth

thy mouth with good things, so that thy youth is renewed like eagle’s.”

The writer wrote: “Youth is wasted on the young! How true is that statement! The older we get the more we long for the days of our youth, when we were more energetic and our joints didn’t creak every time we took a step. When we look into the mirror and see a new wrinkle or gray hair, we wax nostalgic for

the days of smooth skin and shiny locks. In this passage, we are told that youthful vitality is not lost to us, not through God. He will renew us as the “eagle”. Eagle. Not sparrow, or swallow, or hummingbird. But the strong and mighty eagle, who can fly up to 10,000 feet, who has over 7000 feathers to keep it warm and dry, who has exceptional eyesight and seems to soar ef-

fortlessly. The eagle is a symbol of strength and grace. Through God, we have the ability to maintain our own strength, stamina and vitality. Through God we are renewed. Through God, we are made young again.”

So as Seasoned Saints, continuously lean on ‘Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all his benefits: Psalm 103:2 rest on Palm 103:5.

## Anna’s House Habitat Project — Help Needed

Submitted by Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator

Under the leadership of Parish Fellowship, St. John will participate in making home repairs for one of our own young adults, Anastasia Hillard through the Habitat for Humanity’s Program. With the “sweat equity hours” almost completed, Habitat will be scheduling Anna’s house to be repaired in July/August. Volunteers are needed to provide home repair labor.

The exterior was completely remodeled through the efforts of the City of Oklahoma City’s Homeowner Exterior Maintenance Program (HEMP). The exterior of Anna’s house is absolutely beautiful!! Habitat is the entity who has graciously agreed to perform some critical home repairs for the interior. Habitat does have a limited budget and can only do so much in one weekend. Because the interior remodel needs are so great, we are seeking electricians and plumbers from among our membership or community contractors to help fully remodel the interior; i.e., flooring



cabinets, kitchen cabinets, sheetrock and painting, etc. There is a great need for donated materials.

Let’s extend ourselves to help one of our own. This is something we can be really proud of as a church family. For more information, please contact Debra Johnson at 405-816-7493.

# Would you like to see your Child or Youth transformed by the power of God's Word?

By Rev. Keith Carter & Sis Linda Carter

The best way to ensure our kids know how to listen to God and hear His voice is to teach them His Word, but simply reciting it to them—or even teaching them to recite it—isn't enough. If you want to see your child transformed by the power of God's Word, then they need to see His word in action— In St. John's Children and Youth Department, we help your children see how God's voice and His Word affect every area of their life.

At the same time, we help your kids experience the Bible for themselves by taking on the coach role. It's important that they learn to read the Bible and

listen to the Holy Spirit on their own.

**Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights at St. John is the starting place for this transformation:**

St. John Children and Youth ministry invites children to experience God's wonder daily. We Ignite Curiosity and Inspire Kids to discover their identity in God's Big Story. The children's and youth ministries are rooted in Biblical truth; our weekly lessons are enriched with 4 core values:

- God Knows Me
- Jesus Loves Me
- The Holy Spirit Leads Me
- I Am a Child of God

St. John Children and Youth Department offer kids space to fully discover their place in God, leaving no doubt about who God is and who they are in Him—helping them understand how their lives can tell of His wonder.

**St. John Children and Youth Ministry offer the following services:**

- Sunday School Classes for all children aged 4-18 each Sunday at 9:00 am
- Children's Church every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:45 am

- Wednesday Night Activities from 5:30-7:00 pm

*Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it. Proverbs 22:6 (NLT)*

**Past June Activities:**

Vacation Bible School

**Upcoming July Activities:**

Group outing to "Main Event" on Saturday, July 23rd from 3 to 6 p.m.

Address: 1441 W Memorial Rd, Oklahoma City, OK 73114.

## PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton



### Perfect Work Of The Spirit

*God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, and now you can call God your dear Father [Abba, Father]. Galatians 4:6*

When Christ prayed, "Abba, Father," in Gethsemane, He surrendered to death so that the will of God in redemption of sinners might be accomplished. He was ready for any sacrifice. Jesus would have us yield ourselves as completely to God as He did any pray like He did, that God's will be done on earth at any cost.

God's love was revealed in His desire for the salvation of souls; Jesus' love was revealed when He gave Himself for them. He asks for that same love to fill us so that we give ourselves completely to the work of intercession – at any cost, praying for God's love for those who do not know Christ.

This is not beyond our reach, for the Holy Spirit is actually in our hearts that we may pray in His name and in His power. Now we can understand how Christ could give such unlimited promises of answer to prayer to His disciples; that were first going to be filled with the Holy Spirit. God can give such a high place to intercession in the fulfillment of His purpose of redemption because it is the Holy Spirit who breathes God's own desire into us and enables us to intercede for those without Christ.

**Let us continue to PRAY daily wherever you are at 12:00 NOON for our Pastor, Dr. M. L. Jemison, his family, health, strength and guidance.**

## SAFETY and SECURITY MINISTRY

By Standardization and Training Officer

*Eph 2:10...for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them...*

We bring you greetings from your Safety & Security Ministry with the first of what will be monthly communications with the aim of increasing **YOUR** situational awareness on and off the church grounds. Our main goal is to ensure when you come to SJMBC to fellowship, enjoy the message, then get that spiritual battery charged to fight that week's battle you feel safe in this environment. Understand we are in very trying times with so many mixed messages that we must be vigilant yet not scared to be faithful servants of God.

First, let's address a legal matter; even though Oklahoma is an open carry state SJMBC does NOT allow open or concealed carry **INSIDE** the structural confines of our property. This applies to everyone with the only exception, those individuals authorized by a M.O.U.

(memorandum of understanding) with the SJMBC leadership staff. You can leave your weapon (out of plain site) in your **LOCKED** vehicle inside the church parking lot. If noticed by anyone, you will be asked by the security team to return that weapon to your vehicle or leave the church property...non-compliance will result in the OKCPD being dispatched.

We are in the process of developing drills for evacuation and/or lock down IAW, (in accordance with) the OKCPD/OKCFD protocols please watch for upcoming church announcements and follow directions of the ushers, hospitality, and your safety & security team members.

A great man once said... "logic will get you from A to Z, imagination will get you everywhere."

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The Greatest Staff this Side of Judgement!

Let me say thank you for the gift and more thanks for the thought, the greatest things I can thank you for is all the joy you've brought. You are all the Greatest.... Retirement Is Great!!

Patricia Brewer

\*\*\*\*\*

My St. John Family,

Thank you for your words of encouragement. Thank you for your prayers.

Aretha Hasley

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Pastor Jemison,

Thank you for your leadership always kind words when we meet. Thank you for all your prayers. You never know the small things people do mean the world to some of us. I thank you for taking the time to meet your flock this pass Sunday. I love that. A hand shake is worth a million dollars. Thank you. Praying for you and your family.

Sister Beverly Burch

\*\*\*\*\*

Pastor and Mrs. Jemison,

Thank you for your generous gift. We all love you both. Keep us in your prayers.

To Our St. John Family,

A very special thank you to the choir, ushers and entire St. John church family for your cards and prayers during our bereavement.

The family of Frances Grayson

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear St. John Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, calls, texts and words of encouragement. We are forever grateful for your acts of love shown to me during my illness. I am reassured of God's favor, faithfulness and healing power in my life, and I cannot thank Him enough. Thank you also for checking on Diane and Bessie (our four-legged child) while I was hospitalized. You are indeed the Best Church This Side of Judgement. See you soon!

Jon and Diane Wood

\*\*\*\*\*

To Pastor Jemison, Rev. Dawson, Class Esther, and all of our St. John Family:

Thank you so much for your prayers, the food, gifts, cards, calls and thoughts of us during this time of sorrow for our loved one, Trayce L. Green Sr. Your thoughtfulness meant so much to us and helped us through each day. We are so blessed to be members of such a Kind and Caring body of Christ. Please continue to pray for us and we will pray for you.

Blessings, Nell Venable, Grandmother and Charlene Newton, Aunt

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for your sympathy cards upon the passing of my cousin Rodney Nalls. We appreciated the warm words of comfort. With gratitude, Angela Andrews & Family

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Pastor Jemison, First Lady and my St. John Family,

It is true, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING for us. We are truly grateful for all acts of kindness displayed during my surgery and while recuperating. As well as, your expressions of sympathy on the loss of our nephew in Louisiana. You are the best church family this side of judgement.

Blessings to you all,

Deacon Raymond and Deaconess Mildred Payton

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Pastor Jemison and St. John Family,

Dear Pastor Jemison and St. John Family,

Thank you very much Pastor Jemison, Rev. Dawson, Sis. Penny Emery (WMU), and our St. John Family for all the expressions of kindness and condolences extended to us during the homegoing of our "Beloved Aunt Ethel M. Bowers" of Guthrie, Ok and "Special Cousin Rev. Dr. Clarence Noble" of Tuskegee, AL. Your thoughtfulness meant so much to us, along with heartfelt resolution that was sent and read during the service. We appreciate and love you "Church Family". Please continue to keep our family in prayer.

God Bless,

Espenola Turner and Family; Sandra Shelton and Family

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Pastor Jemison & St. John,

You will never know how much your kindness means. You are a blessing!

Love & Blessings – Pastor & Sister Chester West

\*\*\*\*\*

Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. I am sincerely honored and blessed to receive this scholarship. This funding will positively impact my future career and the continuation of my education. I will work hard to achieve success. Thank you so much!

God Bless.

Sincerely, Zoe Hammond - 2022

Pickleball Anyone?

Submitted by Jeff Washington, Physical Fitness Minister

The Wildwood Christian Church is extending an invitation to the St. John family to introduce the game of Pickleball to Communities of Color.

Background:

Pickleball is a racket/paddle sport created by combining elements of several other racket sports. Two or four players use solid paddles to hit a perforated polymer ball over a net. The ball is much like a Wiffle ball with 26-40 round holes. A pickleball court is similar to badminton, with a net similar to tennis, and the paddles are similar to those in table tennis.

Pickleball was invented in 1965 as a children's backyard game,

("Pickleball Anyone?" continued on page 8)

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Oklahoma City, OK  
 Permit No. 1441

St. John Missionary Baptist Church  
 5700 N. Kelley Avenue  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
 Address Service Requested

*("Pickleball Anyone?" continued from page 7)*

on Bainbridge Island, Washington, USA. In 2022 pickleball was adopted as the official state sport of Washington.

The spread of the sport is attributed to its popularity within community centers, physical education classes, public parks, private health clubs, YMCA facilities and retirement communities. There are thousands of pickleball tournaments throughout the United States, including the U.S. Pickleball National Championships, U.S. Open Pickleball Championship, Major League Pickleball, as well as numerous international championships.

- Team members: Singles or doubles
- Mixed-sex: Separate singles and doubles & mixed doubles
- Type: Outdoor or indoor, racket sport
- Equipment: Plastic pickleball, composite or wooden paddle, and net
- Venue: Outdoor or indoor

Beginner Lessons are conducted Friday evenings from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, and Saturday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm at Wildwood Christian Church, located at 6900 N Kelley Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73111. For additional information please contact Marsha (405) 919-2115 or Ty (405) 202-5114

**You Tell Us ...  
 We Tell Them.**

LEARN TO PLAY PICKLEBALL

Pickleball is a 50 year old game that is having a revival nationwide. It has many benefits, including bettering the mental health, physical health, and social bonds of those who play. Come out and learn!

**BEGINNER LESSONS**

<b>FRIDAY EVENINGS</b>	<b>SATURDAY MORNINGS</b>
7-9 PM	10:30AM-12:30PM

**WILDWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

6900 N Kelly Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73111

**More Information:**  
 Marsha (405) 919-2115 or Ty (405) 202-5114