

The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

June • 2022

(405) 478-3344

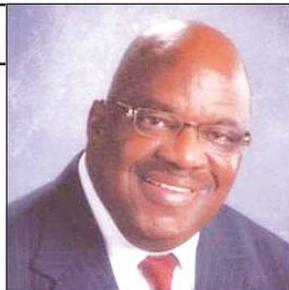
The Pastor's Pen

Beloved Members,

I bring you greetings and blessings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This month we are presenting several outstanding venues and annual programs (Vacation Bible School, Annual Usher and Hospitality Day and Annual Men/Father Day). Each of these opportunities will be overflowing with great fun, fellowship and information. Come go with us and we will do thee good!!!

I often think about how blessed we are as a church family. In the 103 years we have been in existence there has been a level of continuity that is unparalleled for most institutions. What a noble legacy we have. What an awesome responsibility to continue fostering the same degree of harmony and togetherness we inherited. The future is begging us to do our due diligence to remain a beacon light in this community and city.

On a daily basis I meet people who respectfully acknowledge this ministry as a pacesetter. Doors of opportunity are opened to us because of the perception that we have a good product to offer. Therefore, we cannot be stymied or prohibited by anything that less-



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

ens our appreciation for excellence. The same tough minded-tender hearted approach that so distinguished the leadership/membership of the past must be our marks of distinction today. We have been given much. And Jesus said, "To whom much is given, much is also required".

The gateway to a greater legacy is starring us in the face. Walk through it! The Lord has positioned us for such a time as this. Seize it! The writer of Hebrews put it this way, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."

I am very proud of what the Lord has allowed us to accomplish and equally dedicated to press on toward the marks of the higher calling in Christ Jesus. JOIN ME!

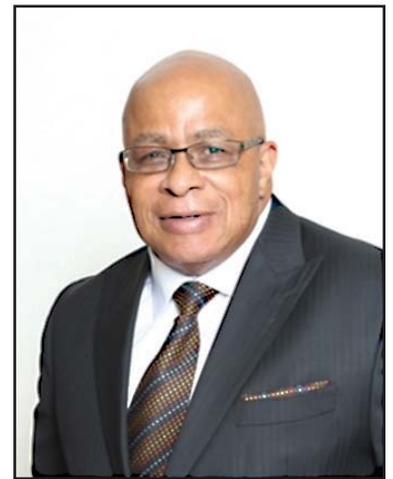
Onward and Upward Together.

"Celebrating Annual Usher & Hospitality Day"

Submitted by Sis Penny Emery, Usher

St. John Missionary Baptist Church has had a long history of celebrating and highlighting the work of the Lord. Sunday, June 12, 2022, we will show appreciation and recognition to those who serve to welcome us and attend to our needs during our worship experience. A key scripture to represent this day is Psalm 84:10 which says, "For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness." The Psalmist wrote this expression as a sign of the highlight of his life—worship on the Sabbath Day, writes Chris Shelton in his explanation of this verse. Members of the Usher and Hospitality Ministry consider serving as "doorkeepers" a privilege and an honor. We love the opportunity to welcome and attend to the needs of worshippers.

To share with us on this day, Pastor Larry Foster, Sr. will come and share the Word of the Lord. Pastor



Pastor Larry Foster, Sr.

Foster is the Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church. He serves as the 1st Vice-President of POBSC and serves as the 2nd Vice-President of the PNBC SW Region. Pastor Foster is married to Rozia McKinney Foster and is the father of two adult sons. He and Sis. Foster are proud grandparents as well.

The Usher Ministry is led by Sis. Stella Lee and the Hospitality Ministry is led by Bro. Myron Knight. Come join us as we worship together celebrating the Usher and Hospitality Ministry, Sunday, June 12, 2022 at 10:45am.

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Does grace alone save?

The Christian stands in grace (1 Pet. 5: 12), we grow in grace (2 Pet. 3: 18), and we are to be strong in grace (2 Tim. 2: 1). Grace, in the Greek (*charis*) is God's favor. We are called by grace (Gal. 1: 15), we are even justified by grace (Tit. 3: 7), and we are established by grace (Heb. 13: 9). The Bible also says we are saved by grace (Eph. 2: 5, 8). However, are we saved by grace alone?

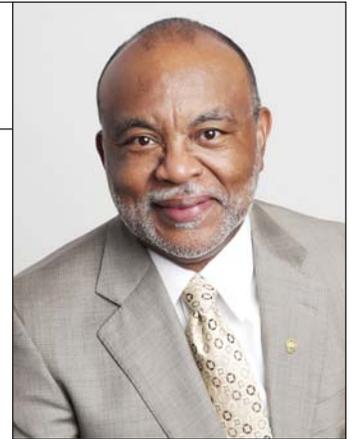
This idea has many believing that God's grace is all we need. There is also a belief that floats around called "*universalism*" which believes all humans are saved based on God's grace alone.

Paul said God's grace "brings salvation", but he also affirmed God's grace "hath appeared to all men" (Tit. 2: 11). God has certainly done his job

in universally extending grace. If it were just a matter of salvation by grace alone, all would be saved. However, only a few shall be saved **Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV)**¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:¹⁴ Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. As you can see, there is more involved than grace alone!

It is true grace is a gift from God, man cannot earn it (cf. Rom. 11: 6, Eph. 2: 8-10). Some confuse earning and accepting. Man can and does receive God's grace in vain (2 Cor. 6: 1). Christians can also "fall from grace" (Gal. 5:4) **Galatians 5:4 (MSG)**⁴ I suspect you would

never intend this, but this is what happens. When you attempt to live by your own religious plans and projects, you are cut off from Christ, you fall out of grace. In the wonderful text of Ephesians two, we have two elements, grace and faith, and two players, if you will: God and man. Paul wrote, "For by grace are ye saved through faith..." (vs. 8). Grace emanated from God, but faith is man's responsibility. We are commanded to believe in order to be saved (Acts 16: 30, 31-34). Belief, repentance, confession and baptism all play a part in salvation **Acts 2:38 (KJV)**³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. These acts constitute man's ac-



cepting God's wonderful grace.

Man seems determined to attach "*alone*" to grace, belief, and baptism. Man has participation in his salvation - from the beginning (accepting grace) to the end (continuing in grace, Acts 13: 43). Grace reigns through righteousness, man's humble obedience (Rom. 5:21).

It is important that we understand the word of God and not come to our own conclusion of what "*we think*" scripture means. I want to invite you to weekly Bible study where we study the word of God to know his truths. We meet every Wednesday at 12:00 noon and at 6:00pm, we have a seat just for you. **1 John 5:13 (KJV)**¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

2022 Men's Day Program scheduled for Sunday, June 19th – Ezekiel 22:30

Submitted by Deacon Ted Saxton

It is time for men to stand up and take their rightful places in the church and the community in order to be the leaders God intended for us to be. Men's Day is one of the few times when black men, young and old, as individuals and as a group, are celebrated in our country. Until recently, Men's Day programs have been an almost exclusive celebratory moment on the black church calendar. From the beginning, these days and programs have focused on black men as fathers, providers, leaders, overcomers, and Christian examples of manhood. Men's Day programs have



Deacon Gary Martin

served to encourage black men, even while they were in the throes of vicious cultural battles. The Legacy of Men's Day serves as a driver for our 2021 Men's Day theme, "Are

You the Man Desires to Stand in the Gap?" The speaker for this year's program will be our own Deacon Gary Martin.

We are looking forward to a time of celebrating and encouraging the right attitudes, speech, character, faith, and the restraints one should place on oneself to help Christian men encourage themselves and overcome their own trials and the world's evils. It provides a recipe for success for young and old. Considering the difficult journey that black men and boys have faced and continue to face in this country, it is a needed recipe.

You
Tell
Us ...
We
Tell
Them.

Continuing the legacy of the St. John Children and Youth Ministry Department – Will you join us?

Linda and Rev. Keith Carter, Children's and Youth Ministry

The Bible is the most amazing book ever written, and we in the St. John Children and Youth Department strive to bring its stories to life through creative activities and discussions that keep kids and youth engaged.

We want every child to love God's Word and understand the value of applying it to their lives. We know they'll have fun each week as they learn about who God is through games, activities, small groups, and video teaching.

Our room environments and lessons are designed to help our Children and Youth grow with others in the same age group. We're passionate about supporting them in each stage of life, so we provide options from birth-12th grade.

Starting on June 8th. Students are invited to our Wednesday night in-person experience from 5:30-7:00 pm.

When you commit to bringing your Child or Youth each week, they will be surrounded by a small group full of familiar faces. As each child and teen will build relationships with leaders and other children, they gain the support and confidence to grow in their faith.

Even in the best families, sometimes things get rocky. Work problems, financial issues, illness, and various other factors can create stress in the home. When this tension is present, Children and Teens will often search for an outlet. Without an escape, their study and social habits can suffer, leading to other problems.

St. John's Children and Youth ministries can provide structure and help parents develop and grow Children and Youth into strong, God-loving adults. Then they can turn around and give that guidance to the next generation of Christian youth.

We want to encourage you to become a part of the Children and Youth Ministry. We can only grow the ministry with your support. Our children and youth deserve the best and the best is you. Your time, your talent and your treasury are needed for our children and youth to flourish. In the world in which we live, God is being minimized and the world is being maximized. We must bring love back to our children and youth and allow them to see God in all circumstances. Satan wants to destroy our children and youth and we see his plan as our children and youth are being enticed with all activities in place of time with God.

God loves our children and youth and we are expecting great things as He shows us His love and how we can grow the children and youth department beginning with great volunteers.



June Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|---|
| Adams, Rick & Donette
June 1, 1979 — 43 years | Knight, Myron & Cynthia
June 15, 1991 — 31 years |
| Liston, Royce & Kristy - Pipkin
June 1, 2013 — 9 years | Davis, Jerome & Sharonda
June 17, 2000 — 22 years |
| Krizan, Vanessa
June 3, 2005 — 17 years | Robinson, John & Mary
June 17, 1972 — 50 years |
| Wilson, Willie & Gloria
June 3, 1967 — 55 years | Carter, Keith & Linda
June 18, 1988 — 34 years |
| Kendricks, Kermit & Alberta
June 6, 1980 — 42 years | Williams, Tyrone & Collette
June 18, 1994 — 28 years |
| Bowie, Millard & Denise
June 77, 1997 — 25 years | Washington, Jeffery & Robyn
June 19, 1999 — 23 years |
| Matthews, Elton & Linda
June 9, 1970 — 52 years | Blackwell, Clinton
June 25, 1988 — 34 years |
| Green, Daryl & Estraletta
June 10, 1988 — 34 years | Stephens, Paul & Lorie
June 26, 2004 — 18 years |
| Saxton, Ted & Katrina
June 10, 2016 — 6 years | Wilson-Starling,
Anika & Starling, Kippy
June 26, 2021 — 1 year |
| Tarver, Kevin & Alexandria
June 10, 2017 — 5 years | Maxwell, Freddie & Yvonne
June 27, 1981 — 41 years |
| Hasley, Aretha
June 11, 1990 — 32 years | Hurte, David & Shirlene
June 28, 1980 — 42 years |



PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton

The Spirit of Prayer

"I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer." Zechariah 12:10

The evangelization of the world depends first of all upon a revival of prayer. It is needed more than personal witness or missionaries. Deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life is the need for the forgotten secret of persistent, worldwide prayer.

Every Child of God has the Holy Spirit in him to pray. God wants to give the spirit in full measure. Pray in the spirit as Paul taught us: "Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 6:18). Jude also wrote: "Continue to pray as you are directed by the Holy Spirit" (Jude 20).

On his resurrection day; our Lord gave His disciples the Holy Spirit to enable them to wait for the full outpouring on the day of Pentecost. It is only as we acknowledge and yield to the power of the Spirit already in us that we can pray for his full manifestation.

Continue to keep Pastor Jemison and his family in our prayers. Join us as we pray for our pastor at noon daily.

WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny Emery, WMU President



Sis. Sharan Robinson celebrating JMBI Bethel Graduation



Sis. Evelyn Spriggs celebrating JMBI Bethel Congregational Series Graduation.



POBSC Officers from Left to Right: Advisor; Doris Evans, Past President, Susie Scott, 1st Vice-President, Kim Tomlin and President Margie Homer

The Summer is here! We are thankful to the Lord for bringing us thus far. We have had a great first quarter and an encouraging second quarter! Your St. John WMU is always busy serving the needs of our congregation and community.

In the month of May, we attended the Annual Progressive Oklahoma Baptist State Convention in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Our very own Sis. Kimberly Tomlin led the Women's Department each night in team building activities emphasizing

the Biblical perspective. Kim serves as the 1st Vice-President of the Women's Department of the POBSC. We had a wonderful time.

During the month of May, the WMU shared Mother's Day greetings with our sick and shut-in Mothers as well as the women of our congregation who are octogenarians. Hats off to our Benevolence Chairperson, Sis. Wanzetta Woody for a job well done. Also in May, we supported the Deaconess Day Program.

The month of May is also graduation month. The JMBI Graduation had the WMU celebrating JMBI Graduates, Sis. Sharan Robinson (Circle #2) and Sis. Evelyn Spriggs (Co-Chairperson of Circle #4). Congratulations ladies on completing this wonderful accomplishment!!

In the month of June, the WMU will go on an excursion to Tulsa's Greenwood District. We are excited to take our financial support to the Greenwood Cultural Center. We will

visit the Greenwood Rising Museum and then fellowship at the "Sundays and More Restaurant." We look forward to a wonderful day together.

On **Wednesday, June 8th**, the WMU will participate in the **PNBC World Day of Prayer** led by the PNBC Women's Department – Sis. Edna Holloway, President.

June 26, 2022 - June 29, 2022, the WMU will support the **PNBC SW Regional Convention**, specifically the Women's Department portion. The PNBC SW Regional Convention will be held at St. John and the **Women's Luncheon speaker** will be none other than our very own **Kimberly Tomlin**. The **Women's Luncheon** will be **Wednesday, June 29th** beginning immediately after the Convention morning session – (1:30pm – 3:30pm). This is a ticketed event and tickets are \$40.00. Please see Penny Emery for tickets. We thank you in advance for your support. If you are unable to attend the Luncheon, your financial contributions are appreciated. Please stay tuned for additional information regarding the PNBC SW Regional Convention.

HBTT to visit Boley on final day of Smithsonian Exhibit

Submitted by Kimberly Burk

The Coltrane Group will offer an Historic Black Towns Tour (HBTT) on June 25, the final day for the Town of Boley to host the Smithsonian's "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" exhibit and also "Colored Memories", the exhibit previously shown at the Oklahoma History Center.

The bus will leave from the parking lot of the Oklahoma History Center at 8 a.m. and travel to the Boley Community Center. Tour participants will

visit the Smithsonian exhibit and also view "Colored Memories: Historic Photos of Life in the Crown Jewel," a Coltrane Group project that was first shown at the Oklahoma History Center in 2018.

The group will also advantage the opportunity to view the "Historic Black Towns Festival", an event designed to showcase each of the 13 remaining Historic Black towns in Oklahoma. Scheduled for that day is a re-enactment of the infamous

Nov. 23, 1932, attempted robbery of the Farmers and Merchants Bank by members of Pretty Boy Floyd's gang. This Boley bank building is being restored as an historical site by The Coltrane Group via The National Park Service and through other fundraising efforts.

This organization, founded in 2003, is a nonprofit organi-

("HBTT"
continued on page 5)

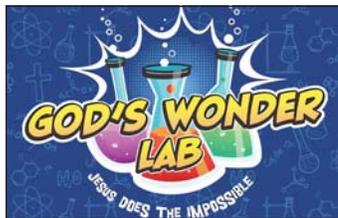
It's Vacation Bible School Time!

Submitted by Tasha Miles, VBS Director

We invite all to join us and invite a friend or two or three. You don't want to miss it.

The 8th Annual Family Fun Day will be held Saturday, June 4th from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. located at St. John Missionary Baptist Church. Enjoy free food, carnival games, music, and chances to win prizes. We will honor Ms. Frances "Homegirl" Grayson for her many years serving the VBS picnics.

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held Monday, June 6th – Wednesday, June 8th. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. each night.



Children and Youth Class Details:

Our God can make the impossible possible!! He does marvelous things!

This year's theme is God's Wonder Lab with a scripture focus on 'He Does Marvelous Things' Psalm 98:1.

Children and youth will discover that God sent His son Jesus to do impossible things for us.

Day 1: Jesus Heals me and He cares for me – Story of a girl restored to life and a woman healed

Day 2: Jesus is with me all the time – Story of Jesus walking on water with Peter

Day 3: Jesus wants us to share him with others – Story of Paul

Women's Class Details:

Quite a Year we have been Blessed to come through Ladies. But we only made it thru Mercy and Grace! Now, it is time for us to share with each other the good things that have happened thru PRAYER.

Our Point of Emphasis: Prayer

Our Theme: You were made to Sparkle, Dear God, Thank You for hearing our Prayers

Our Scripture: *Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me.* Psalm 66:20



We are excited for the ladies this year and will have so many exciting things to share, study and celebrate. Lots of Give-aways, Fun, Food and Special Prayer Time.

We are looking forward to our Guest Speakers, and this year we will have Prayer Stations.

Stations with Special Prayer Warriors on topics such as:

- Praying for our Children (young and older)
- Praying for our Spouses
- Praying for Careers and Jobs situations
- Praying for our Self – Lead by Lady J
- Praying for Others

Our Dinner time will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Special Dinner on the Grounds such as the Famous Lady J Fish Fry.

Come one and come all because we will be honoring our Sisters. We will have a Sister Picture Booth. The Grand Prize this year is one Roundtrip Airline ticket and one Weekend to the Shangra La Resort in Oklahoma.

Look forward to meeting you at VBS. Be sure to invite a friend.

Men's Class Details:

The Men's Vacation Bible school classes will be offered in person and virtually.

Day 1: "Men It's Time" from Genesis 18:17-19

Day 2: Men's Class Details: The Men's Vacation Bible

school classes will be offered in person and virtually.

Day 3: "A Kingdom Man's Mandate" from Genesis 3:8-9.

The Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88580245939>; Dial in: +1 346 248 7799 US; Meeting ID: 885 8024 5939

The men will enjoy a dynamic and engaging class that will empower and motivate men to live out God's view of manhood and be the best husbands, fathers, and leaders for God.

We need your help to host VBS. Areas to volunteer include: Teachers, Food Servers, Arts/Activity, and Registration with the Children and Youth. The VBS Women's ministry will need volunteers. If you are unable to volunteer your time, the staff asks for your continued prayers for great weather, an abundance of volunteers, plenty of resources, and souls saved during the VBS week. If you have any question, contact Tasha Miles 405-600-8501 or email SJMBCOKC.VBS@gmail.com.

(“HBTT” continued from page 4)

zation dedicated to promoting the economic development and revitalization of the remaining 13 historic Black Towns, to assisting the Mayors of these towns in the restoration and recording of the rich heritage of the towns and their citizens, and to additional revitalization projects. Having activated the Black Genealogical Research Group (BGRG) as well as the HBTT (13 Historic Black Town Tours via chartered bus from Oklahoma City), the Coltrane Group is excited about its 're-birth' [This will be the first bus tour since the death of our own beloved member, Andre Head, the Co-founder and CEO of the Coltrane Group, who along with his wife, Jessilyn Hall Head, co-captained previous trips and

projects. These ventures to three towns per visit, were suspended temporarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the untimely death of Mr. Head. This rebirth is dedicated to honoring Andre's dream of assisting in the revitalization of the 13 remaining Historic Black Towns of Oklahoma and the other projects spearheaded by The Heads.] The wearing of masks will be encouraged while tour participants are on the bus. The exhibit, "Crossroads", is a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution, Museum on Main Street and state humanities councils nationwide. The traveling exhibit, which visited six rural towns in Oklahoma, was made possible in the state by Oklahoma Hu-

manities and other sponsoring organizations/entities.

The exhibit explores the future of rural America, and how the ingenuity and determination of rural Oklahomans contribute to the state's success.

The cost for the June 25 bus tour is \$80 which includes a homecooked lunch in Boley, breakfast snacks and other goodies on the bus. The bus will return to the Oklahoma History Center at approximately 6 p.m. To reserve a spot on the tour, please call Jessilyn Head at (206) 949-5012, Velma Smith at 405.837-1287, or Verena Hooks, 405.209-0882.

Please join this Historical Black Towns event — You will not want to miss this exciting day!

Prayer Ministry

Submitted by Rev. David Dawson, Prayer & Visitation Minister

A Bad Day At The Office

Beloved Friends, a lot of us grew up and remember an old song titled, "Mama Said". The opening words were, "mama said there'd be days like this, there'd be days like this mama said". The song alluded to the more difficult, trying and very hard times that happen to all of us but it also deals with one's desire and ability to manage those stressful periods. I don't want to discuss how such times enable us to develop, grow and mature as Christians but rather how those times reveal GOD

revelation of HIS presence and HIS love. The life of Job, in my opinion, is excellent subject matter for our reading today because it presents a man who loved, served GOD and had everything going his way. He was kind, generous, supportive of the community, entrepreneurial and loved his children. He possessed many if not all of the character traits I wish I had and perhaps some of you. There is no indication that his manner of living was inconsistent and one day at the office

was no different than any other day until he experienced that one bad day at the office when everything that could go wrong did go wrong and he was helpless to prevent or correct it. It however wasn't until near the end of his dilemma that GOD appeared, setting the record straight and correcting all that had gone wrong. Well what did you see in Job's travails that opened your eyes and allowed you to see GOD in an entirely different perspective. This is what I saw.

"Tough Times Don't Last But Tough People Do": The late Dr. Robert Shuler pinned those words in a book with the same title that dealt with the harshness of life times we all experience from time to time. While at a business convention, as the chief speaker, he happened to talk with an attendant during a break in the proceedings and learned that the man had spent his the last of his money to attend the convention in the hopes of hearing something that would keep his business afloat in the midst of a recession that took place in the 80's. Dr. Shuler prayed with him and thought "what can I possibly say that can encourage this man and give him hope".. It was then that GOD moved upon him to echo these words to all of the attendees. Tough times are actually common to humanity and Christians are no exceptions. It is during these times that we should refocus, realign and redirect our priorities to GOD, in the event we may have gone astray and needed something to remind us who GOD is and whose we are as it relates to our position and understanding of HIS sovereignty.

"GOD'S Love Is At Its Best When We Need It The Most": Let's be honest with one another, tough times can turn you into a different person if you're not careful. You may feel abandoned, deserted and cast out. When you're between a rock and a hard place it's easy to think that GOD doesn't care or is so mad at you and wants to make sure that you will never do what you did again. Our SAVIOR isn't vindictive or hard hearted but such thoughts and feelings are easy to enter our weakened state of being. It's HIS love that gives us the stamina, strength and sturdiness to hang around and see what the end will be. The end will always be good because GOD is good and now you are in better shape to know so.

"Worship Is Always In Order": Lastly it has been sung in yet another song, "that when you've done all that you can, stand" GOD is still GOD and is still worthy to be praised in bad times as well as good. Our state of being, monetary position or standing in the church or lack thereof doesn't afford us a credible excuse or reason not to worship HIM who stepped out on nothing and spoke creation into existence with a single word. The good we have received has far exceeded any bad that we may have experienced at the hand of GOD and let us not forget that HE hasn't denied us any good thing with blessings on top of blessings. Worship has nothing to do with what we have, what we don't have or what we want for that matter. It has everything to do with WHO GOD IS. Bad days at the office will come but our GOD remains the same. I'll see at the watering hole...David



Insights from the VIP "Seasoned Saints" Ministry

Submitted by Velma James Smith

The VIPs had such a great time at the Yellow Rose Theater April 1st that we will do it again June 25th. Join us for a fun filled evening of delicious food, fabulous company and the electrifying Motown Review performance.

We thank God for a Ministry that encourages our age 60 and up members to keep engaged in all of our church activities. Question: How challenging would it be to come up with ten things for which you are thankful?

Thankfulness is a skill we can develop with practice despite all the turmoil we witness every day. According to the message in Jesus Calling Bible Study Series, it's just a matter of pausing and noticing the abundance with which God has filled our lives. We can choose to view life through the lens of depriv-

tion (noticing everything we don't have and worrying that there is never enough for us) or through the lens of abundance (noticing everything we do have and trusting that our good God will provide for us). Which do you choose?

"When you focus on what you don't have or on situations that displease you, your mind becomes darkened. You take for granted life, salvation, sunshine, flowers and countless other gifts from God. You look for what is wrong and refuse to enjoy life until that is 'fixed'. When you approach life with thanksgiving, the Light of God's presence pours into you, transforming you through and through. The morale of this message: Walk in the Light with Jesus by practicing the discipline of thanksgiving."

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator

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

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all the St. John Fathers. We celebrate you this month on Sunday June 19th. Thank you for your support and covering. I pray you have an enjoyable day with family and friends.

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!!

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

Let's give a birthday "shout-out to Bro. Kevin Smith, Jr. (Birthday June 30th). Thank you Bro. Kevin for all you do.

I also want to also give a special "Shout-Out" to our June Deacons, Brothers Henry Townsend, Shawn Emery, and Arthur Houston. Thank you for all you do!!

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome our new members who have completed orientation and received the Right Hand of Fellowship since January, 2022. **THEY ARE READY TO SERVE!!** We have



Bro. Kevin Smith, Jr.

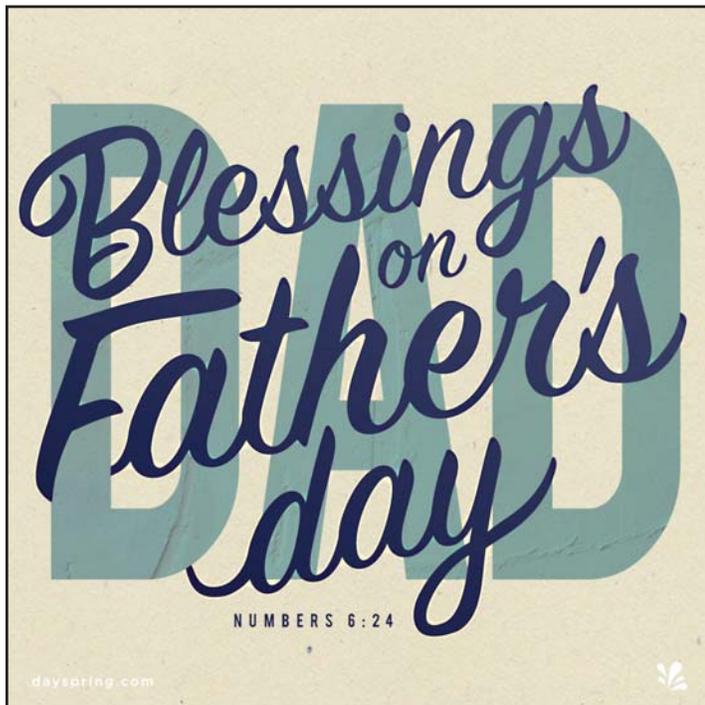
more new members you'll learn about in the next Beacon!

1. Andrea Jackson — November
2. Kippy Starling — June
3. David Lounds — April
4. Diane Lounds — December
5. Morgan Lounds — July (youth)



6. McKenzie Lounds — July (youth)
7. Georgia Jackson — April
8. LaBrika Chaffer — November
9. Darin Lipscomb — January
10. Yvette Lipscomb — December
11. Kalyasia Hill — July (youth)
12. De'Jur Mobley — June (youth)
13. LaRonda Boyce — June
14. Tishara Mitchell — October

LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!



The Significance of Voting

Submitted by Varite Brown

What is the Christian's responsibility regarding voting? Voting is an American right and responsibility related to the concept of democracy. When we vote in elections, we "speak out" for ourselves and those who cannot vote. We participate in defending the rights of children, the disabled and others who are unable to vote.

It is time for Christians to rise up and vote for honest men and women. We must get involved in the political process by researching the background of candidates; attending political forums where we can ask candidates the "hard" questions and press for a response. We must also hold them accountable for their actions/non-actions. It is too easy to create a commercial and claim that "I am a Christian and I will work in the 'interest' of all my con-

stituents". What does that really mean?

Evangelist Billy Graham said, "If America is to survive, we must elect men and women into public office - individuals who will seek divine guidance in the affairs of the state". In Chronicles 7:14, God gives us the formula for healing our nation, "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land."

So let's humble ourselves, ask God's forgiveness, pray for the healing of our nation, seek divine guidance in choosing candidates and participate in keeping our nation a Godly nation by voting in all elections for which we are eligible to vote.

You may view the Beacon on the church website

www.stjohnokc.org



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Bethel Graduation 2022

Submitted by Velma James Smith



Bethel graduation students, staff, guest speaker Dr. Mario Melendez

The Johnson Memorial Bible Institute Bethel Bible Series Class of 2022 celebrated their successful completion of a two-year intensive study of the Old and New Testaments May 17th with a cap and gown graduation ceremony. Congratulations to Cynthia Laws Calloway, Sharan N. Robinson, Evelyn B. Spriggs and Brade Willis (Class of 2021).



Congratulations Bethel Class of 2022...you made it!

Dr. Mario Melendez, OBU Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Studies, gifted the graduates and ceremony attendees with wonderful words of encouragement and a mandate to continue the quest to learn more about God.

Hats off to the graduates. They actualized the words of our Bethel theme song, "More about Jesus let me learn, More of His Holy will discern. Spirit of God, my teacher be, Showing the things of Christ to me."

If you want to learn more about Jesus and His fullness; see, commit and attend our next Bethel Class when announced.