

The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

June • 2023

(405) 478-3344

The Pastor's Pen

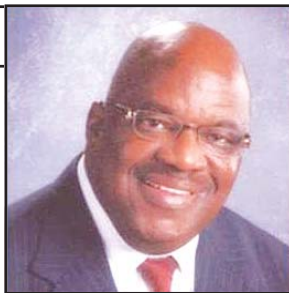
Beloved Members,

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 bases 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 lessens our appreciation for excellence.

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



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

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*

Annual Ushers/ Hospitality Day-2023

Submitted by Penny Emery

St. John welcomes Rev. Garry Johnson as our guest preacher for our Annual Usher and Hospitality Day. This Annual Day is a celebration of appreciation for the "doorkeepers" of St. John. Rev. Johnson is a native of Kansas City, Missouri but was raised in Oklahoma. He currently serves as Assistant Pastor at Fellowship Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. Please join us on **Sunday, June 11, 2023** as we honor and say a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to our Usher and Hospitality Ministries.

Sis. Stella Lee is President of St. John Usher Ministry and Deacon Gary Martin is President of St. John Hospitality Ministry.



Rev. Garry Johnson



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Who were the Pharisees?

The Pharisees were a prominent “sect” of the Jews. The name Pharisee basically means separatists. Most of the Pharisees were enemies of Christ and the apostles (Matt. 21: 33-46; Luke 12: 1).

The Pharisees were very concerned about keeping the minute areas of the law (Matt. 23: 23). Christ did not condemn this; rather He endorsed it. The problem with the Pharisees was in their preoccupation with the minute, they had forgotten the “weightier matters of the law”. Jesus said, “...these ought ye to

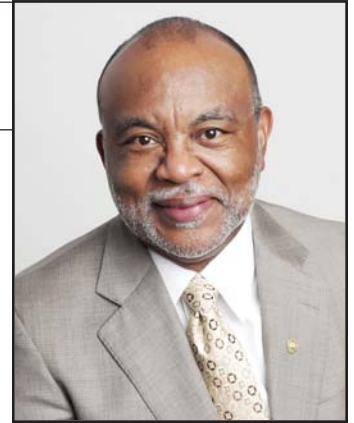
have done, and not to leave the other undone.” Jesus said of them, “But all their works they do for to be seen of men” (Matt. 23: 5). They loved attention and religious titles (Matt. 23: 6-9).

The Pharisees were often more concerned about keeping their own traditions than God’s law. Hear Jesus, “Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition” (Mk. 7: 9). They made void God’s commandments and rendered their work vain (Mk. 7: 7, 13).

On one occasion Jesus said,

“let them alone, they be blind leaders of the blind...” (Matt. 15: 14). Be it known, however, that Jesus never rebuked any for sincerely keeping His commandments or for teaching God’s law, in its purity, to others. Jesus never discouraged good works, but rather endorsed such (Matt. 23: 1-3). The motives of the Pharisees were wrong (Luke 12: 1).

Bible study will introduce you to unfamiliar terms in the Scripture like “Pharisees” and help you study God’s word with clarity. By having a good educa-



tion program here in St. John, we will help make mature Christians of the faith. Please contact me to share what educational programs we offer for you and your family. You can reach me at (405) 478-3344 or email me at Lckirk@stjohnokc.org.



PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton

Heavenly Praying

And they sang a new song... “You are worthy.. for... your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” Revelation 5:9.

When we prayerfully lay our gifts for the work of the Lord upon His altar, it should not be done from mere custom or without serious thought. Every penny—the same as every prayer—that comes into God’s treasury has a value corresponding to the intention with which it is offered to Him. Only true love to Him and His work transforms our gifts into spiritual offerings.

Thus, it would be well for us to learn what God thinks and says about missionary work so that we may think and act according to His will.

What is prayer like in heaven? Do we have biblical insight? Our text tells us of a vision of things in “the heavenlies” which sheds the light of eternity upon the work of missions. We hear the redeemed praising the Lamb that He redeemed them to God by His blood. In praise of the power, which the blood has exercised, there will be no kindred nor nation unrepresented, and because there will be no division caused by language or nationality, every breach will have been healed. All will be united in one spirit of love as one spotless body before the throne of God.

What else is that vision but a revelation in heaven of the high calling and glorious result of mission work?

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.



June Anniversaries

Adams, Rick & Donette ~ June 1, 1979 — 44 years
Liston, Royce & Kristy - Pipkin ~ June 1, 2013 — 10 years
Allen, Demetrius & Courtney ~ June 2, 2018 — 5 years
Krizan, Vanessa ~ June 3, 2005 — 18 years
Wilson, Willie & Gloria ~ June 3, 1967 — 56 years
Kendricks, Kermit & Alberta ~ June 6, 1980 — 43 years
Bowie, Millard &
Baccus-Bowie, Denise ~ June 7, 1997 — 26 years
Green, Daryl & Estraletta ~ June 10, 1988 — 35 years
Saxton, Ted & Katrina ~ June 10, 2016 — 7 years
Tarver, Kevin & Alexandria ~ June 10, 2017 — 6 years
Hasley, Aretha ~ June 11, 1990 — 33 years
Knight, Myron & Cynthia ~ June 15, 1991 — 32 years
Davis, Jerome & Sharonda ~ June 17, 2000 — 23 years
Robinson, John & Mary ~ June 17, 1972 — 51 years
Carter, Keith & Linda ~ June 18, 1988 — 35 years
Williams, Tyrone & Collette ~ June 18, 1994 — 29 years
Washington, Jeffery & Robyn ~ June 19, 1999 — 24 years
Stephens, Paul & Lorie ~ June 26, 2004 — 19 years
Wilson-Starling, Anika &
Starling, Kippy ~ June 26, 2021 — 2 years
Maxwell, Freddie & Yvonne ~ June 27, 1981 — 42 years
Hurte, David & Shirlene ~ June 28, 1980 — 43 years

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister

“MOTHERS WHO PERSIST — ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY RESPONDS”

AT LUKE 11:5-10 IS THE FAMILIAR PARABLE WITH JESUS SAYING...... Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? 7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. 8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” We have been very conscious of mothers meeting the needs of their children and needing our help.

DURING THE MONTH OF MAY “HAND ME UP(S)” HAS BEEN VERY CONSCIOUS OF GOD AT WORK WITH MOTHERS WHO PERSIST FOR THEIR CHILDREN. There was early in the month an Asian woman who came with an interpreter from the United Methodist Church for clothing, but we were not set up. A Hispanic woman came out to the garage when Wanzetta Woody, Lisa Shelton, and Tamique Perry were sorting on first Saturday. Both were given flyers and / or instruction to come back on the 3rd Saturday. Pray for us, we have talked for a year about how to be set up for service for emergency cases.... The Hispanic woman was back on 3rd Saturday with all 5 children. Lastly, people came looking for food on 3rd Saturday and we turned them away. A Black woman brought her giant of a 15 year old, Sheridan, with a big smile, to me he seemed 7ft tall, thanks to your giving we had shoes, shirts and ties, but we did not have pants. There was one woman who the WMU surmised she was living a lot out of her vehicle. At 2:30 p.m. she was still knocking to get food for her family of 3. Evangelism cooperated with the WMU to supply food long after both the clothing and food pantries would have been closed. Thank you Kim Chaney and Jerri Shepherd for representing the WMU and keeping both feet in for service. **ALL OF THIS SAID, THERE IS A REAL NEED WITHIN OUR OWN COMMUNITY, ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CAN MEET THAT NEED, WE HAVE MET THAT NEED, WE WILL MEET THAT NEED IN JESUS NAME TO SERVE THE LEAST, LAST, THE LOST AND THE FORGOTTEN! THANK YOU FOR GIVING, PRAYING AND STANDING WITH US.**

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023, WE SERVED 36 ADULTS AND 12 CHILDREN... THANK YOU AND THANK GOD! OUR WORKERS: Wanzetta Woody, Denice Blakely, Shirlee Tomlin, Rhonda Hall Williams, Eddy Taylor, Curry Harris. **PRESORTERS:** Judy Rackett, Wanzetta Woody, Lisa Shelton, Denice Blakely, Tamique Perry. **THANK YOU DONORS:** Michael & Brenda Fenner, Reverend David & Margaret Dawson, Reverend Cherryll Doughty & Shan White, Malcolm Stoughtenborough (our apologies Malcolm for leaving your name off last month, how could we forget you), Shawn & Cecelia Emery, Donald Watkins,

Ann Brown (the toys made it a great day for the children), Rhonda & Michael Williams, Elleen Loveless, Zella Sturgeon, Greg & Vernetta Demartra, Ellis Winston, and Janet Givens. **THANKS TO OUR VERY EXCELLENT IT MAN FOR ALWAYS MAKING US LOOK GOOD ON FACE BOOK:** Reverend Marcus Carruthers.

PRISON MINISTRY: BERRY HOUSE SERVICES CONTINUE 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS: Reverend Cornelius David Wade **SHARING FIVE FINGER/HAND EVANGELISM. LEXINGTON PRISON ADULT MEN/ EVERY SUNDAY. AND MENTOR SESSIONS WITH JULIUS JONES —JOSEPH HARP CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CONTINUE:** Reverend Marcus Carruthers. **MABEL BASSETT ADULT WOMEN/ SECOND SATURDAY EACH MONTH:** Reverend Betty Branch Winters, Greg Smith, and Carolyn Bowens. 2nd Saturday May, 2023 was the first service at Mabel Bassett. **HELP! HELP! HELP! PRISON MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT! THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS.**

The Impact of Young Voters

By Deacon Gregory DeMartra

The Millennials and Gen Z will be the ones to impact voting in the next century, they will change the narrative of voting for those who seek to serve in public office's, state and local governments, and the presidency of the United States of America. Baby Boomers are declining and although millennials and Gen Zs are voting in our current election, they will certainly be the ones to make an impact in society when it comes to voting in our electoral process.

The census bureau gives some statistics on how their impact will influence the nation. Population distribution in the United States in 2021, by generations are The Baby Boomers, born 1946-1964, population share 21.16%, Generation X born 1965-1980, population share 9.83%, the Millennial Generation born 1981-1996,



with a population share of 21.75%, and Generation Z born 1997-2012 with a population share of 20.67% which is a significant percentage. In a 2022 report, the U.S. Census designates Generation Z as the youngest generation with adult members born in 1997 to 2013. Wikipedia states, Like Boomers Millennials are a huge generation that we sometimes split into two subgroups: Early Millennials born in 1980-1987, and Recessionist born 1988-

(“The Impact of Young Voters” continued on Page 4)

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator

Happy June Everyone!!

I want to extend a HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all the fathers of our church family. We celebrate you this month on Sunday June 18th. I applaud the men of our church, especially our Deacons, for how you've stepped up and been present and supportive to our many ministries. I pray you have an enjoyable day with family and friends.

I have received many positive comments about the birthday stickers we are now giving on the first Sunday, as well as the ice cream coupons! This wonderful idea was born in April and first celebrated in May...we apologize to January through April months. Hang tight...we look forward to celebrating and blessing you in 2024!! So when your birthday month rolls around, be sure to stop by the PF table in fellowship Hall to greet your PF Team and receive your ice cream coupon!!

The Refreshing Hour for May was GREAT!! We have had great sessions and attendance in May with Grief & Loss;



May PF serving the Refreshing Hour - Shelia Edwards & Rhonda Hall-Williams

Marriage and Family Support Ministries giving leadership, i.e., icebreaker, food prep, serving and engaging in bible trivia fun. The Children & Youth Ministry will provide ministry leadership for June. NEW FOR JUNE!!! - Teaching series entitled "WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON". This teaching series will be dynamic. Also Bro. Rudie and ministries will be serving a MEAL (not just junk food) starting at 5:30. So tell all your family and friends about the REFRESHING HOUR!!.... you don't want to miss it!

Lastly, 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!!

LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!

(*"The Impact of Young Voters" continued from Page 3*)

1995. It suggests that the obvious element divides these two groups is life stage. Millennials are considered as the Silent Generation they are about working within the system, as opposed to the previous generation who had fought for changing the system.

In The Atlantic, Ronald Brownstein suggests, the coming generational backlash against Donald Trump may represent only the first tremor in a much larger earthquake threatening the GOP through the 2020's. Brownstein further suggest that Trump is eroding the Republican Party's position

with younger voters at precisely the same time as the massive diverse Millennials and Generation Z are poised to become the largest voting bloc in the electorate.

Brownstein further indicates that the Millennials and Gen Z are only a few years away from dominating the electorate. Brownstein writes that for the first time Millennials and Gen Z will equal Baby Boomers and prior generations. It is suggested that in 2024 the two younger generations are expected to equal the older ones as a share of actual voters on Election Day. And by 2028,

Millennials and Gen Z will dwarf the older generations as a share of both eligible and actual voters, and it will have a national impact throughout the United States.

Today we are living in a polarized society, and with much divisiveness in our country, change is surely taking place with the new generations on the uprise. In fact, At the Pew Research Center, they say that the Gen Z eligible voters will reflect the growing racial and ethnic diversity of U.S. electorate, also there is a growing number of Hispanic that is significantly

higher than the share among Millennials, Gen X, Baby Boomer or Silent Generation and other voters.

The impact of young voters is paramount, and with the information provided one can realize the reality of change taking place in our society. There is a higher outcome of new voters with this population of people, and with these groups of generations they will be more diversified than any other group of people in America.

Voting is a privilege, so vote conscientiously in every election!

WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny Emery, WMU President



Rev. Betty Winters



Rev. Wanda N. Thomas



FD Moon Principal Droiles and member of the track team receive donated items. Special thank you to Sis. Rhonda Hall Williams for delivering the donation

What an incredible time to be in the service of the Lord! Happy June everyone! The St. John WMU remains excited and engaged in serving God's people. We continue to minister through Bible Study, visiting the sick and shut-in, sending cards of love and concern, concentrating on how we can better serve the community, supporting our church programs and activities, and supporting our State Convention Women's Department.

This past month of May has been VERY busy and we have enjoyed every minute of it. The St. John WMU had the pleasure of being present when our very own 2nd VP Sis. Kim Tomlin was installed as the Women's Department President of POBSC. Our State Convention was AWESOME and St. John women were thankful to in attendance in large numbers.

During the month of May the WMU supported the Annual Deaconess Day, supporting WMU member and Deaconess Chairperson, Sis. Annette Kirk Burleigh. It was truly a wondrous, beautiful day. Also, in celebration of Mother's Day, the WMU sent over 50 Mother's Day cards to our sick and shut-in.

Hats off to Circle #4(Sis. Evelyn Spriggs and Sis. Susan Townsend,

Chairpersons) for their support of F.D. Moon School. Circle #4 donated socks and toiletry items.

The St. John WMU was so proud to support WMU members Rev. Wanda Thomas and Rev. Betty Winters as they shared the Word of God in the Wednesday Bible Study.

In the month of June, the WMU will support Vacation Bible School Family Fun Day and all other related activities. We WILL NOT have our joint mission meeting this month. The WMU will support the POBSC State

Congress June 5 – 7th at New Hope Baptist Church, we will send Father's Day cards to all of our sick and shut-in men and we will support the Annual Usher/Hospitality Day June 11th as well as Men's Day June 18th.

We are looking forward to a wonderful month of June and we want YOU to join us. If you would like to activate your membership with the WMU, we would love to have you. WMU Dues are only \$24/year.

In His Service,
Penny R Emery



Technology Media/Digital Ministry

By Rev. Marcus Carruthers, Technology Minister

Thank You Cecille & Carole



Cecille Miles



Carole Walker

Philippians 1:3-6 says: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 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."

Cecille Miles faithfully provides ministry in assuring people's prayer needs are being met and that our Prayer Team faithfully loves on and pray for and with our members and non-members world wide.

Carole Walker has been a blessing serving on our team ministering to individuals within our live broadcast. She provides points of service, and engages our members online. She also provides pictures for our Behind the Scenes Photos.

Please tell these incred-

ible team members thank you for the service you faithfully provide weekly. We are blessed by your ministry.

Here is our key scripture for ministry: "And he said to them, Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." Mark 16:15 (NKJV)

Here is our Ministry purpose: The purpose of St. John Missionary Baptist Church Technology & Media Ministry is to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our visually-driven, ever changing world using technology and media. The use of media in ministry is the vehicle for effectively communicating and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God chose various methods, medias or ways that are effective for the time in order to communicate to man based on the need of the hearers.

We need your prayers, help, and support. Reach

out to me and let me share with you our ministry needs.

Ministry Goals:

- Utilize our e-church to reach "the nations" for Jesus Christ.

- Provide inhouse media technology that will capture anointed moments of the Gospel message in order to share to others through various methods of technology, video and audiovisual devices.

- Be effective communicators through different media outlets that will have a clear, competent, consistent, and trustworthy message that the hearers will have confidence in the Gospel and in the messenger.

- Broadcast church experience and events to the world by way of various social media platforms, blogging, podcasts, etc.

- To have a powerful presence on the internet that will communicate with



people in today's time.

Ministry Opportunity: If you are interested in serving in the Technology & Media Ministry you will have the opportunity to effectively communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world through various means of technology, media outlets and social media platforms. This ministry provides the technical support required for our worship services, archives teachings, sermon messages and other events which are made available on digital download and for viewing or podcasting. If you have a heart to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through media technology, the Technology & Media Ministry is looking for you. Prior experience is not needed to serve on this ministry. Training will be provided for all volunteers.

Thanks again Dr. Jemison and St. John Missionary Baptist Church for adjusting and adapting to the needs of our changing world and taking the gospel across the street and around the world.

Annual Family Fun Day & VBS 2023

Submitted by Tasha Miles, VBS Director



Evangelist Vonda E. Yates

Parish Fellowship and Vacation Bible School staff have partnered up to host the 8th Annual Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. John MBC. There will be carnival games, food, prizes, train ride, petting zoo, live music, and a water slide. Bring a towel.

Snow Cone Shaved Ice will be there to keep us cool with snow cones. We encourage everyone to bring a lawn chair to enjoy the festivities. St. John is looking for the best ribs in OKC. Join the BBQ Rib Cookoff, facilitated by Fusion, (YAM). The first-place winner will receive a \$100 gift card. Bring your home-smoked slab of ribs in a Styrofoam container for our three judges to grade your ribs on overall taste, presentation, and tenderness. The entry fee is \$15 per person, due by May 31st. You can pay by check or pay online at stjohnokc.org. In the Memo, put Fusion BBQ. We look forward to your tasty ribs.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held Monday, June 5–Wednesday, June 7, 2023, from 5:30–8:30. Dinner is served between 5:30-6:30 p.m. The theme this year is ‘God and Me,’ with scripture focus on Isaiah 48:16. All students will be engaged in activities and dis-

cussions to help them understand the role of God, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit in their lives. The nursery will be opened.

Monday: The Father Lives in Me—God

Tuesday: I Can Show You Better than I Can Tell You – Jesus

Wednesday: Walk It Out – Holy Spirit

We look forward to teaching your students how to apply Gods Word to their lives.

VBS Men’s Class Details—Theme: It’s Not Too Late—Scripture: Luke 9:23, And He said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. Discussion Leaders:

- Monday, Rev. Marcus Carruthers
- Tuesday, Rev. David Dawson
- Wednesday, Dr. Rev. Lawrence Kirk.

Brethren, we look forward to you coming out and bringing a friend as we grow together in Gods Word and enjoy one another’s fellowship.

VBS Women Class Details—Theme: EVERYBODY IS Somebody to Our God—Scripture: Praise be to God, who has rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me. Ps 66:20(NIV) Guest Speaker: Evangelist Vonda E. Yates is a woman of wisdom and grace who leads an authentic spirit-filled life. As an intercessor, she uses her weapons of prayer to war in the Spirit realm to thwart the plans of the enemy and to invoke the Spirit of the Lord to those who are seeking relief from pain or hurt. She ministers in songs and hymns that will invoke the presence of the Holy Spirit. Evangelist Yates aspires to make a difference in the lives of others using her God-given gifts and abilities. Door prizes will be awarded each night.

Monday: White is the color



for the evening. There will be a prize given to the best summer hat and white outfit.

Tuesday: Red is the color. A prize will be awarded to the best summer shoes and the best white outfit.

Wednesday: Yellow is the color to wear. There is a prize

for the best yellow outfit and summer purse.

We look forward to a great time in fellowship with one another as we grow closer to God. If you have any questions, contact Tasha Miles at 405-600-8501 or email SJMBCOKC.VBS@gmail.com.

Thank You! Thank You!

St. John Church Family,

Your thoughts, your words, your kind expression of sympathy are greatly appreciated.

Rev. Sherry Richardson & Family

To the Best Church this side of Judgement,

Words cannot describe the love and comfort felt during the illness and passing of our father and brother respectively, Wadsworth Kennedy. Whether it was a comforting prayer, visits, phone calls, text messages, love offerings, food and/or attending the funeral service, WE THANK YOU and appreciate you!! Please continue to pray for us.

In Christ, Janet Givens, Darryl “Choo” Kennedy & Family
Leland & Pegi Kennedy & Family

To Thank You

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a floral piece, if so I saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say; perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much whatever the part.

Thank you, Rhonda Prince

My St. John Family,

Thank you first of all for your continued service doing God’s work. During the loss of my husband’s sister and cousin, you called, sent cards, and prayed. When my cousin passed away, you stepped up again. Lastly, when I had surgery, you never missed a beat. I cannot thank you enough. Thank you, Lord, for sending me to the best church this side of judgement. God bless you all.

Irene Edwards

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2023 Men's Day and Men's VBS Class Schedule

Submitted by Deacon Ted Saxton

It is time for men, to stand up and take their rightful places, in the church and the community 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 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

2023 Men's Day theme, "It's Not Too Late". The speaker for this year's program will be our own Reverend David Lounds.

Our Men's Day theme, "It's Not Too Late" will be our focus during our 3-days series of lessons during Vacation Bible School this year also. On Monday night, June 5, 2023, will be led by Reverend Marcus Carruthers, Tuesday night, June 6, 2023 will be led by Reverend David Dawson and Reverend Dr. Lawrence Kirk will wrap it on Wednesday night, June 7, 2023. All sessions will begin promptly at 6:15pm each night. Please join and invite someone out as we grow in the Word and enjoy one another's fellowship.

We are looking forward to a time of celebrating and encouraging the right attitudes, speech,



Reverend David Lounds



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.