

The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

August • 2023

(405) 478-3344

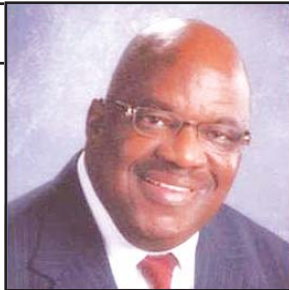
The Pastor's Pen

Beloved Members,

I trust all is well with you and the family. I pray the summer days have proven to be kind and enjoyable. In a few weeks we will celebrate another year of serving in The Lord's Church. It will mark 48 years of preaching the Gospel and 40 years of serving you. Anniversary time is always a time of reflection, assessment, and evaluation. I must admit our tenure has been a blessed learning experience. We have spent the majority of our adult lives among you and your families.

On behalf of Jacquie, Kinsley, and me, thank you for every act and gesture of kindness we've received. We remain prayerful and solicit your continued prayers for us. In closing, here is a testimony that inspires me, and I hope will inspire you to make praying a priority.

In his book *Hope for the Troubled Heart*, Billy Graham recounts the story of a missionary and his family who lived in a mission camp and received distressing news of an impending attack by a group of thieves. They prayed for protection, and nothing happened that night. A few months later, a man was brought into the mission hospital, and he wanted to know if the mission camp had soldiers



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

on duty that specific night a few months before. The man said he was a member of the gang of thieves who had intended to rob and kill the missionaries, but they were afraid of the 27 soldiers surrounding the mission camp. The missionary returned home, retelling his unusual story, and a member of his church said, "We had a prayer meeting that night, and I took the roll. There were 27 of us present."

That missionary was completing his kingdom assignment to spread the gospel, but so were the 27 church members. You don't need a passport to fulfill the Great Commission. Through the fervent prayer of the people at home, that missionary and his family were able to safely continue carrying out the call God had for them in reaching people in a distant nation!

".....the effectual fervent prayers of the righteous availeth much" (JAMES 5:16)

Be Blessed.

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

A GRAND CELEBRATION Honoring Dr. & Mrs. M. L. Jemison 40th Year of Ministry



We are so excited and delighted here at St. John Missionary Baptist Church to be celebrating an extraordinary milestone Pastor's Anniversary. Dr. M.L. Jemison has labored faithfully for 40 years here at our church! He and his wife, the first lady Jacqueline have been consistent witnesses of the love of Jesus Christ here in this community and region. For that, we are so thankful.

The theme for this year's anniversary is: "A Man Chosen and Gifted for God's Service." Scripture reference is Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ to do good works."

IT'S GOING TO BE A GRAND CELEBRATION!! It all begins on SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH at 6pm with a Musical presented by the Concord Baptist Church of Dallas,



Pastor Bryan Carter

Texas. Then on **SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH** we will have morning worship @ 10:45 a.m., with Pastor Bryan Carter, our guest speaker from Concord Church, Dallas, TX. **SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE** for the city

*("A Grand Celebration"
continued on page 2)*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

What do the scriptures teach on baptism?

The scriptures do not teach baptism is “an outward sign of an inward grace.” The word of God does not teach baptism is sprinkling or pouring – it is immersion, as the word suggests (see Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12). The New Testament does not teach baptism renders one sinless the remainder of their life (Acts 8:13–24). Neither do the scriptures teach baptism is simply the means of membership in the local church (Acts 9:18–26).

One must realize that baptism is one of the first steps in obedience for a believer. We find in Matt. 3:13–15 that Jesus himself was baptized.

Baptism is “for the remission of sin” (Acts 2:38). Those who argue “for” means “because of” need to see Acts 22:16, “...arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins...” Scriptural baptism places one in the spiritual body of Christ where salvation is realized (Gal. 3:27, 2 Tim. 2:10). Baptism is the “answer of a good conscience toward God” (1 Pet. 3:21). Baptism “saves” (1 Pet. 3:21). In baptism the old man of sin is crucified, and one arises to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3–6). Baptism is a command of God (Acts 10:48). Baptism is part of that “form of doctrine” which

one obeys to cease being a “servant of sin” and to become a “servant of righteousness” (Rom. 6:17, 18, 1–18). Baptism is for the lost sinner (Mk. 16:16). Baptism is for responsible individuals who are capable of believing (Mk. 16:16). Baptism is to “fulfill all righteousness” (Matt. 3:15).

We as members of the church should make sure that we understand baptism, often children think that it is a “play thing” allowed in church. Baptism is not to be ignored if you are a believer.

The scriptures portray water baptism as the last God-or-



daind act standing between the lost and their salvation. Belief, repentance, and confession precede “before” baptism (Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38, 8:35–37). Have you been scripturally baptized?

To learn more about the doctrines (the teachings) of the church, I want to invite you to become a part of our educational programs here at St. John, we believe in an educated ministry, equipping mature believers in the faith. Please contact me at (405) 478-3344.

Back To School Sunday Program is a Tradition at SJMBC

Submitted by Sis Ruby Nichols, Chairperson

Back to School is an annual event held on the fourth Sunday in August. It represents the beginning of each year’s educational cycles. St. John Scholarship Committee take pride in hosting Annual Back To School Sunday Program on August 27th during morning worship! Scholarship Theme: INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH: Expecting Their Best! Scholarship Scriptures: Proverbs: 3: 5–6 and 4: 1–14; Ephesians: 6:1–4; and Philippians: 4:13.

This year’s Back To School Program speaker is a highly qualified and sought after lecturer, who has presented and taught across the country. He is Rev. Dr. Eric J. Gill, who currently serves as Executive Pastor of Operations & Ministries at Antioch Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We will share more about his education at his introduction on August 27th.



Rev. Dr. Eric J. Gill

Back To School is specifically directed to our students, who are encouraged to study hard and to learn their best as they prepare for opportunities that will come!

Then spotlight focuses direction of educators who teach and administer in schools. Also,

the Parents, Grands and Guardians who love and support students in the years of their educational journey! We’re all on The Same Academic Forward Team!

Also, following today’s B-T-S Program, High School Seniors and their Parents are asked to complete a SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ID FORM, in the Fellowship Hall and give to a committee member, today, or complete one from Scholarship bulletin and turn it in to the church office. This form is the first step in expressing your intention to apply for the church scholarship.

Thanks to our Pastor, Dr. Rev. M. L. Jemison for continuing to award the Rev. W.K. Jackson Christian Fellowship Scholarships to eligible high school youth members, who continue their post-secondary education, since the early 1980s!!

(“A Grand Celebration” continued from page 1)

featuring Pastor John Reed of the Fairview Baptist Church @ 3:00 p.m., and the many churches here in OKC, to continue showing our appreciation for his commitment and dedication.

Each family within St. John is being asked to render a love offering per family for the Pastor’s Anniversary as a tangible expression of our love and appreciation for our First Family. As members of this the Lord’s church, we’re asking that you join in and be an integral part of this 40th year ministry anniversary.

WE’RE SO EXCITED!! Make plans to attend concert on Saturday and all the activities on Sunday, August 20th and show love to Pastor! Please help set the stage for this **GRAND CELEBRATION!!**

Technology Media/ Digital Ministry

By Rev. Marcus Carruthers,
Technology Minister

What is a QR Code?



The “QR” in the QR code stands for “Quick Response”. It’s a two-dimensional matrix barcode that can be read and scanned with compatible devices such as a smartphone camera or an app. We will connect with our congregation virtually, celebrate all of the ministry impact and create practical ways to meet the needs of our members.

One of the most significant post-pandemic changes is how churches have started using technology to serve their members and people connected to their ministries. Churches have been quick to join the world of virtual communication. That’s why QR codes are an excellent way to modernize our church and relate to more people.

This versatile tool helps our church get more out of our traditional and print ministry materials. We can bridge our churches’ traditions to the digital world using a reliable QR code online to grant instant access to communication and information. QR codes allow churches to provide a contactless experience, reduce waste and save more money. For example, our church bulletin QR code or guest cards for Sunday morning announcements minimize paper waste. They can make signing up for events more accessible and easier to donate online.



Anyone with a smartphone can access the embedded information in the QR code with one quick scan, making this tech tool beneficial for our church. Users can scan a QR code to get the necessary information without typing in web addresses or clicking through several links.

Churches now use technology that focus on attracting members to attend service after the world experienced the pandemic. According to Pew Foundation, about 17 million Americans visited church websites regularly. Churches can use this advantage to relay information and schedules to members conveniently.

To avoid long queues at religious sites, churches can use QR codes to let people register and worship at different times to control the number of visitors. Linking a QR code to sermons, the Bible, and other religious texts is a great way to help visitors use QR Codes in our church. Additionally, we can link the QR codes to an audio version of the verse of the week or related messages to aid members who have difficulties reading or listening for more inclusive worship.

Thank you for being a church that utilize practical technology to communicate and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sis. Vernetta DeMartra Inducted in African American Educator’s Hall of Fame

By Deacon Gregory DeMartra

In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed. Titus 2:7-8 NIV

The beauty of serving other’s, is that Christ be magnified in you!

Mrs. Vernetta DeMartra will be inducted into the African American Educator’s Hall of Fame on September 29, 2023. Mrs. DeMartra invites you as a church family to come and share in this special occasion, as she receives her well-de-



Sis. Vernetta DeMartra

served acceptance into the Oklahoma African American Educator’s Hall of Fame.



August Anniversaries

Nichols, James & Ruby — August 2, 1969 — 54 years
Hill, Craig & Joyce — August 4, 1972 — 51 years
Watson, Kenneth & Rita — August 4, 1990 — 33 years
Wood, Jon & Diane — August 6, 1994 — 29 years
Benson, Lee & Voncile — August 12, 2005 — 18 years
Ray, Billy & Kathy — August 14, 1993 — 30 years
Thurston, Roy & Flossie — August 14, 1965 — 58
Lounds, David & Diane — August 16, 2003 — 20 years
Bray, Lamont & Veola — August 18, 1973 — 50 years
Neboh-Baker, Julie — August 18, 2012 — 11 years
Moore, Corey & Leondra — August 22, 1997 — 26 years
Harris, Leroy & Marjorie — August 24, 1974 — 49 years
Brown, David & Jacqueline R. — August 28, 2004 — 19 years
Liddell, Larry & Renee — August 28, 2010 — 13 years

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

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator

Happy August Everyone!!



Hospitality; and Safety & Security & July PF Serving the Refreshing Hour



Food Pantry Giving

I am so excited and overjoyed at the upcoming 40th Anniversary of Pastor Jemison and First Lady Jacqueline!! We are excited to have the Concord Church from Dallas, TX in fellowship with us for this grand celebration. WE'RE JUST EXCITED about everything that is to come!! We invite you to get excited too!!

THE REFRESHING HOUR!!

The Refreshing Hour for the month of July was dynamic!! I want to thank Hospitality; and Safety & Security & July PF for a job well done in rendering support!! Attendance grew even more in July. We started the new series "What In The World Is Going On" and it's quite interesting. Dr. Kirk kicked us off with an overview of Shootings, Climate Change,

Gender Identity....all relevant issues in our world today. Rev. Dawson dealt more specifically with mass shootings and murder; and Dr. Kirk finished out the month addressing climate changes. In August, we will visit the topic of diversity and inclusion as it relates to gender identity and the use of personal pronouns. We will be engaging knowledgeable individuals to help us with this topic. If you have not made it out to the Refreshing Hour, you are missing yo blessing!! Come join us at the Refreshing Hour each Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m....a healthy meal is served at 5:30.

We continue to serve the community through the food pantry. For July, approximately 40 families were served. Thank you Hospitality, Safety & Security, July PF and Rev. Cherryll Doughty for your service to our

food pantry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MEMBERS!!

AUGUST MEMBERS, it's your birthday month and we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!** Let's give a birthday "shout-out to Brenda Perry and Cecile Brison, August PF Coordinator, both whose birthday is August 29th. Thank you Brenda and Cecile for all you do.

I also want to also give a special "Shout-Out" to our August Deacons, Brothers Durant Lamey, Kenneth Washington, James Harris and Deacon Consultant Herbert Bailey. Thank you for all you do!!

We hope to see you the 1st Sunday as we celebrate your birthday month. Come get your August Birthday Sticker and proudly wear it!! Also, be sure



Cecile Brison



Brenda Perry

to stop by the PF table in Fellowship Hall to greet your PF Team and receive your ice cream coupon!!

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome our new members who have been baptized and/or completed orientation and received the Right Hand of Fellowship in July, 2023. **THEY ARE READY TO SERVE!!**

1. Brian Freeman
2. Kennedy Folland

LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!

WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny Emery, WMU President

Happy August St. John!

Your St. John Women's Missionary Union has been busy all Summer long sharing with our sick and shut-in, maintaining our individual mission meetings within our Circles, and sharing the love of Christ.

We ended the month of July with our Annual Fruit Filled Fellowship. See pictures below:

We are excited about the month of August, 2023! THIS month, we will join in the celebration of our Pastor and First Lady Sis. Jacquie Jemison's 40th Pastoral Anniversary! The WMU had the opportunity to give a personalized greeting at our Fruit Filled Fellowship and we are anticipating a wonderful fellowship this year!

Sis. Jemison serves as Chairperson of Circle #6, known as OHJ. She has served faithfully and exceptionally in this capacity for many years. Sis. Jemison is an enthusiastic, capable, and astute leader. She is a valued member of our WMU Executive

Committee and we are proud to call her our First Lady.

Congratulations to YOU, Sis. Jacquie Jemison as First Lady of St. John!! St. John WMU Salutes You and will continue to pray God's blessing upon you.

Lastly, St. John WMU always stands ready to welcome new members! Please call the church office for individual Circle meeting times and Circle Chairperson contact numbers. The next WMU Joint Mission Meeting will be held after Labor Day on Saturday, September 9, 2023 in the Fellowship Hall. See you then!



PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton



THE CHRISTLIKE LIFE



"Your attitude should be the same that Christ had." Philippians 2:5 What was the attitude that was in Christ Jesus? "Though He was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God. He made himself nothing; He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form He obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on the cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). Self-emptying and self-sacrifice, obedience to God's will, and love to men, even unto the death on the cross—this was the character of Christ for which God so highly exalted Him. It is the character of Christ that we are to imitate. He was made in the likeness of God.

Self-effacement and self-sacrifice that God's will might be done, and that man might be saved—this was the attitude of Christ. He lived only to please God and to bless men. Don't say that this is an impossibility. What is impossible with men is possible with God. We are called to work out this salvation of a Christ like character with fear and trembling, for God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey Him and the power to do what pleases Him (verse 13). As we pray, let this be our one aim: to have the attitude that was in Christ Jesus.

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.

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister

ST. JOHN MBC FAMILY SHOWING COMPASSION TO A COMMUNITY IN NEED

In I John 3:17-18, we find these words “BUT WHOSO HATH THIS WORLD’S GOOD, AND SEETH HIS BROTHER HAVE NEED, AND SHUTTETH UP HIS BOWELS OF COMPASSION FROM HIM, HOW DWELLETH THE LOVE OF GOD IN HIM? MY LITTLE CHILDREN LET US NOT LOVE IN WORD, NEITHER IN TONGUE; BUT IN DEED AND IN TRUTH”. Even as God so loved the world and gave his only begotten son, so we are challenged to put legs, arms, and feet —

actions behind our love. This is another text that challenges all of us to be love in action. Love is not only what we say, but it is what we do. Through your liberal gifts we continue to impact the lives of our community.

UNDER OVERCAST SKIES, SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023, OPENING AT 10:00 A.M. “**HAND ME UP(S) ... WAS READY TO SERVE THE PUBLIC., EAST OKLAHOMA CITY AND BEYOND...** Thank you for all who showed up at 8:00 a.m. especially Curry Harris making sure the Bus was out. Ardeena, this was a day when the troops needed water and more water, your big water chest is what the doctor ordered. Thank you, Shirlee Tomlin, for having our favorite McDonald Breakfasts. Where would we be without Wanzetta Woody and Rhonda Hall Williams and our whole crew helping the public shop. A shout out to Reverend Christine Harris Byrd for making sure we had a lot of things for faces, teeth, and hair—creams, shampoos, etc. We had 21 adults sign in under these overcast skies. I am sure we missed some of our crowd because we still had a crowd when we thought about closing, and we also had a crowd for the entire morning. We are always thankful to our sorters—Wanzetta Woody, Shirlee Tomlin, Denice Blakely, and Judy Rackett. **THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS:** Diana Bell for Dora Berlin (YMCA HEALTHY LIVING CENTER), Kathy Simpson and friends, Thelma L. Denton (Sister of Reverend Wade), Gregory & Venetta Demartra, Malcolm Stoughtenborough, Quincy Stidham, Rhonda Baker Williams, and Marsha Jones. **THANKS A MILLION!**

PRISON MINISTRY: ST. JOHN MISSIONARY CHURCH FAMILY WILL SUPPLY 500 PIECES OF FISH TO LEXINGTON ADULT MALE POPULATION. July 30, 2023, the Lexington Adult male facility will have a special event and have asked our prison ministry to be co-sponsors with 500 pieces of fish. Rudie Valentine found good prices for us, and we are doing our part to encourage those incarcerated. Reverend Marcus Carruthers will be our contact person for these activities.

BERRY HOUSE SERVICES CONTINUE 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS: Reverend Cornelious David Wade. **LEXINGTON PRISON/ADULT MALE/EVERY SUNDAY AND MENTOR SESSIONS/ WITH JULIUS JONES/ JOSEPH HARP CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CONTINUE:** Reverend Marcus Carruthers. **MABEL BASS ADULT WOMEN/EVERY SECOND SATURDAY EACH MONTH:** July/Reverend Betty Winters, Greg Smith, Carolyn Bowens, Reverend David Lounds. The July sessions had four volunteers and 22 residents to participate. **RECENTLY TRAINED FOR PRISON MINISTRY:** Irene Edwards, Lolita Wesley, Deborah Romaine, Sherrie Fredericks, Reverend David Lounds.

THANK YOU, ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY, YOU KEEP US READY AND RELEVANT AS WE IMPACT THE COMMUNITY AND PRISON LIFE OF OKLAHOMA. GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS.

Opiod Addiction Awareness Day-2023

Submitted by Sis Veola Bray



The Family Support Ministry will recognize International Overdose Awareness Day by having an Informational Session on Wednesday, August 30th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the M.L. Jemison Conference Center. The actual day is recognized on August 31st. We have requested that the Sky Dance Bridge be lit up in Purple to commemorate this event and the City has granted our request again!!

This ministry has brought awareness to the community on this subject starting in 2016. In 2018 we had our last session which included the Attorney General of Oklahoma, Drug Court Judge Kenneth Stoner, representatives from the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics. Because of COVID we had a lapse in activity but just this past February we partnered with the Oklahoma Faith Network in presenting a Substance Abuse Conference regarding the Faith Response to Substance Abuse/Opioid Addiction.

This year we will have representative from the OU College of Medicine speak to us about the effects on the family, the brain, and the body regarding Fentanyl and other drug use. A representative from Hope Is Alive, Bishop Terrance Haynes from the Ideal State of Mind Christian Counseling Services, Judge Kenneth Stoner, and two personal testimonies concerning drug use/overdose.

The public is invited to attend with emphasis on churches that have Support Groups, Sober Living and Treatment facilities, students, and family members that are supporting those that can be helped by the information presented. Various vendors will be on hand with resources and information.

We know that everything happens after prayer and that the Lord will be with all of us during this period of planning. We invite you to come and gain some knowledge so that you will be able to be a blessing to others.

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.



“Seasoned Saints” Highlights

Submitted by Velma James Smith



Saturday Cruisers

The weather was perfect, and the waters were calm. The VIPs cruised the Oklahoma River two nights in a row: July 14th and 15th. Fifty plus Saints enjoyed the fellowship, fantastic food and just plain fun. Special thanks to Daryl and Cynthia Davis, Mae Burge, and Sandra Wallace for coordinating the riverboat event.

Our next scheduled excursion is a one-day Village Tours bus trip August 12th to Ft. Worth Texas to see The Color Purple stage play. The details for this event can be found in church announcements or flyers at the church.

Keeping Seasoned Saints active and engaged in all St. John ministries is one of the tenets of our ministry. Please stay hydrated during this extremely hot and humid summer season. We look forward to passing on vital information at our Healthy Aging Conference in September.



Ladies on Deck

Children & Youth Highlights

By Rev. Keith Carter & Sis. Linda Carter

St. John Parents, Grandparents and Guardians:

Back-to-school means back to Bible Study! The Youth will resume their study of Elijah in September. The Elijah study allows youth leaders to engage students and help them connect with Jesus and prepares youth to deal with challenging issues they face each day. The Elijah study is specifically designed to minister to youth 12 years of age and older. Youth learn the benefits and importance of having personal devo-

tion time. They also learn Scripture, play games, win prizes, and have meaningful interaction with peers and leaders each Wednesday Night from 6-7pm and dinner is served from 5:30-5:55pm.

Parents as your Youth head back to school, give them the tools to grow the most important relationship of all: the unique and eternal one they share with Jesus. Make a lasting impact in the lives of your Youth set aside time each week for them to attend Wednesday Night Youth Bible Study.

Thank You!

St. John Church Family,

Thank you so very much for your kind expressions of sympathy and comfort during the loss of our loved one.

Sincerely,

Alice & Lawrence Myers and family

Pastor Jemison & St. John Church Family,

Thank you for your kind words and heartfelt prayers during this difficult time. Love, Lisa and Ellington Shelton

Beloved St. John Family,

I am so grateful to each of you who reached out to me after the stroke. Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, visits, donations, and meals. Thanks to God for His mighty healing power and for your overwhelming kindnesses.

With love, Eva King

Oklahoma Election Poll Workers

Submitted by Sis. Mae Burge

Election Poll Workers are volunteer voters dedicated to democracy and our representative form of government. They care about their community, the right to vote and the integrity of the election process. Training for poll workers is mandatory and provided for all volunteers. Volunteers get to watch democracy in progress. Their workdays are election days in the county served from poll opening to after the poll closes (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

They receive fixed pay for hours worked. Voters who desire to be poll workers must be registered to vote in the county served and demonstrate competency to perform the duties of a poll worker.

Go to oklahoma.gov/elections/volunteer/poll-worker-opportunities or contact the Oklahoma County Election Board for additional information.

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



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

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

IT'S A CELEBRATION

Dr. M.L. Jemison and First Lady Jacqueline Jemison 40th Anniversary
FEATURING: CONCORD CHURCH CHOIR, DALLAS, TEXAS IN CONCERT



Join us...

Saturday, August 19, 2023 @ 6PM

St. John Missionary Baptist

5700 N. Kelley Avenue, OKC 73111

www.StJohnOKC.org



FREE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dr. M.L. Jemison & First Lady Jackie