

The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

December • 2022

(405) 478-3344

Annual Christmas Worship Service — 2022



In this month of December, St. John will be celebrating the Birth of Christ in a special way. On December 18th at 9:30 a.m., the Luella Dunn Children's & Youth Department will present their Annual Christmas Program in the Sanctuary. Our children and you will present their Christmas time speeches. Come out and support our young people say their speech in their own special way!

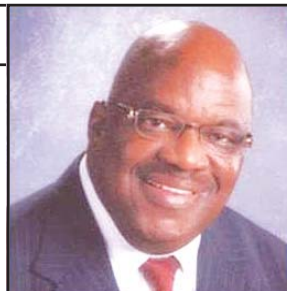
On Christmas Sunday Morning, December 25th at 10:45 a.m., a Christmas special program will be presented entitled "The 3 Wise Women of Christmas: Told from An Ebony Sister's Perspective". The theme is taken from Luke 1 & 2 and focuses on the story of Elizabeth, Mary and Anna. This experience will include singing and dancing and stands to be a joyful time in worship and fellowship.

At the conclusion of the service, the traditional St. John Christmas Goody Bags stuffed with fruit and Christmas candy will be distributed to all. Invite your family and friends to be a part of this special Christmas worship service.

The Pastor's Pen

Beloved Members,

The Advent Season is the greatest period of any calendar year. It is the season when we look afresh at glorious gift of God's love...the Coming of Jesus Christ. There is no event in human history more transforming for mankind than the Coming of Jesus Christ. His coming brought God front and center into the arena of our sinful predicament. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth". His coming proclaimed in flesh and blood the redeeming love of God. His impending birth opened the doorway of salvation. "For God so loved the world he gave His only begotten son; that whosoever believes in him should not perish but shall have everlasting life." And so, as we move through this Advent Season, do so keenly aware that Jesus indeed is the reason for the season. It is in



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

him and through him that we live, move and have our being. Because of him and his sacrificial life, we presently live without the stigma of condemnation. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus." Nothing we will do this season will yield any greater satisfaction than the time spent gratefully reflecting on the profound blessing of this season.

Onward and Upward Together



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Can man obtain perfection?

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect," commanded Jesus (Matt. 5: 48). We also read, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 John 1: 8, 10). What is the answer to this apparent contradiction?



December Anniversaries

Embry, Gus & Millicent
December 1, 1990 — 32 years

Miles, Hezekiah & Tasha
December 6, 2003 — 19 years

Prince, Algernon & Rhonda
December 6, 1976 — 46 years

Wallace, Wilbert & Sandra
December 19, 1969 — 53 years

Washington, Henry & Bettye
December 22, 1979 — 43 years

Perkins, Wanda
December 23, 1978 — 44 years

Clayborne, Mark & Linda
December 24, 2005 — 17 years

Smith, Donnie & Velma
December 27, 1975 — 47 years

Bailey, Herbert & Teresa
December 30, 1985 — 37 years

Jaha, Thomas & Linda
December 31, 1992 — 30 years

Sometimes the idea of "perfect" as used in the scriptures is that of maturity. The writer of the Hebrew Epistle wrote, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5: 14). If you have a footnote in you Bible for "full age," it will probably read, "mature" (the Greek word is the word for "perfect"). In fact, when there is sufficient time, it is a sin to fail to become perfect or mature (Heb. 5: 11-14, 1 Cor. 3: 1-3, 1 Pet. 2: 1-3).

Regardless of the level of maturity, man remains a sinner, in need of God's grace. Paul penned, "For all have sinned,

and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3: 23). If man could be perfect in the sense of sinlessness, he could earn his salvation. However, salvation cannot be merited and the only thing earned is spiritual death (Tit. 3: 5; Rom. 6: 23). Salvation by grace and flawless works cannot be combined, as they are mutually exclusive (Rom. 11: 6).

The goal however remains, "Be ye perfect" and the example of perfection is God, "even as your Father...is perfect" (Matt. 5: 48). Even though there is provision made for sin, the Christian is commanded to "sin not" (1 John 2: 1). Paul's stated goal is: "Whom we preach...and



teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Col. 1: 28).

The Christian journey is always to press towards the mark! I want to invite you to join us each and every Wednesday at 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. as we learn from God's word. You can reach me at (405) 478-3344 or e-mail Lckirk@stjohnokc.org.

SPCC
Christmas
Prison Ministry
**Sock
DRIVE**
**DECEMBER 10, 2022
11:00AM**
Mabel Bassett Correctional Center
SPONSORED BY SPCC HOUR OF POWER AND RE-ENTRY MINISTRY

Technology Media/Digital Ministry

Innovative Technology & Media

By Rev. Marcus Carruthers, Technology Minister



Technology continues to shape and influence churches. There's no denying that claim because churches wouldn't be where they are now without the power of technology. From reading the scriptures on papyrus to interacting with the Bible on a digital tablet, churches have witnessed these transformations firsthand and have taken full advantage of technology.

When it comes to technology, leaders and members need to see clarity and inspiration. So, here are practical ways technology can help our church continue to perform in 'big' ways. Hopefully, it will continually inspire our church to embrace technology as an integral part of the church experience.

1. Technology enhances our worship experience

Technology can enrich everyone's experience at church. It's meant to support and not replace the entire worship experience.

2. Technology can help us enrich our sermons

In the same vein that technology enhances the church's worship experiences, pastors can optimize their sermons with technology. They have to draw power from technology because these help in connecting with the audience.

Technology allows our pas-

tors to get their message across even more effectively.

3. Technology can connect us with each member

Let's admit it: technology has made connecting easy for everyone.

4. Technology provides a digital avenue for our church

The potential of what technology can do for our church is endless. Today, our digital footprint is a critical support system for our church's in-person service. Technology allows our church members to 'be in spirit' with the church wherever they may be.

5. Technology keeps track of important church metrics

Church attendance, external donations, weekly tithes, and expenses are some objective indicators to keep track of the health of our church.

6. Technology can connect our church to the rest of the world

In the same way that tech-

nology connects us internally among our members, technology also has the potential to reach outside of our local community.

7. Technology extends our church's ministries

We can't confine our church's ministries within the walls of our church. The effort we put in to post a picture of our Sunday service or to upload a clip of our sermon on social media, for instance, can be the start of 'going big.'

It's clear that technology can help improve the overall church experience of each member. Using technology at church does not mean that you're attempting to keep up with the trend or that you're becoming too attached to 'worldly' treasures.

Getting Jesus' message to the people means identifying and using appropriate tools. In today's time, technology is a tool that has endless potential to



help our church innovate and adapt to the frequently changing world. Thank you St. John for being open and prayerful about us using technology to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.



Good news St. John, it's time again for our **ANNUAL 50 DAYS OF PRAYER CAMPAIGN**

The campaign will take place

Dec. 4, 2022—

Jan. 31, 2023

Registration will begin the after morning worship

Join us and see what

wonderful things

GOD will do

when we pray

All we need is YOU!

Safety & Security

From the desk of Safety and Security Ministry - Director of Standards and Training

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:39

Well church, we are 90% back to "normal" for Sunday Worship, the doors of SJMBC are now open! Parishioners be mindful we still must maintain our security awareness; the following doors will automatically lock at 11:00 a.m., the north door by the nursery and ALL the east doors by the conference center. Please note the update as you make your way back to Sunday worship. For your protection as well as ours **FACE MASKS** are still required.

Each ministry that is planning to use the church to hold your meetings please ensure that you follow the protocol of submitting a building form to Pat in the administration office NLT a week prior to your event. Failure to comply with this request could result in your ministry not having a room to host your event.

I believe that the privilege of a lifetime is being who you are.....

St. John Makes Scholarship Donations to Langston University Foundation

Submitted by Arthur Houston

The coordinators of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church Langston University Scholarship campaign "Push" wishes to extend their gratitude and thanks to all supporters. Former Mr. and Miss Langston University of 1981, Arthur Houston and Denise Baccus-Bowie are highly encouraged about the amount of love and supportive acts of generosity given to the fundraising effort to help Langston University students fulfill their dreams of completing a college education program. University students must meet certain eligibility requirements in order to receive financial support. Langston University Foundation will maintain authority in making determinations on student's qualifications and the amount of funds awarded.



Photo Caption Needed

On October 20, 2022, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor M. L. Jemison, presented a check to President Kent Smith

in the amount of \$8,000.00 during the LU's Annual President's Gala during homecoming festivities. St. John looks forward to continuous fundraising ef-

forts led by its dedicated illumines and church and community supporters. Fundraiser projects are currently underway in order to get an early start in raising funds for future homecomings presentations. We welcome any church members or community leaders to join us in this fundraising effort. For additional information on how you can make a contribution, you may contact committee chairpersons Arthur Houston at 405 412-6776 or Denise Baccus-Bowie at 405 414-8645 at this time. All contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to St. John Missionary Baptist Church/LU Scholarship Fund. We also have electronic capabilities in which donations can be given. Please let us know how we can assist you in this regard.



Ambassador Concert Choir — 2022 Christmas Concert

Submitted by Malcolm Stoughtenborough

The Ambassadors Concert Choir presents, 'Behold This Star', Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve @ 7PM. St. John Sanctuary. This special evening will feature The Ambassadors Youth Choir and will also be a tribute to long-time Sponsors Richard and Jeanette Sias of the Ad Astra Foundation.

The Concert will also highlight the classic "Born to Die", composed by Oklahoma native, Glenn Burleigh, Artist-in-Residence for the Choir (1985). Mr. Burleigh dedicated this major work to The Ambassadors under the direction of Dr. Kenneth E. Kilgore, Founder (1979).

Make plans to join The Ambassadors for this Annual Holiday Event.



The St. John Missionary Baptist Church, in partnership with the OKC Regional food Bank, will host a food giveaway on Saturday December 17th from 11-12 noon. The Christian Education Ministry & Enrichment Hour will be operating the

St. John Provides Free Food December 17th

food pantry on December 17th. Volunteers from these ministries will load your food items in drive through fashion at the back of the church. St. John is proud to provide this needed service to the community. For more information, contact the church office at 405-478-3344.



WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny Emery, WMU President



Penny Emery & The Kitchen Crew



*Lady Jacqueline and
Pastor Hersey Hammons, Jr.*



*Kim Tomlin,
Cynthia Williamson,
Rudie Valentine, and
Joan Johnson*

What a wonderful November it has been! Your St. John WMU participated in the National World Day of Prayer. During this time, churches ALL over the world take time to pray for Christians all over the world, specifically Baptist women within each of the seven continents.

We would like to thank you so much for ALL of your support and prayers! We enjoyed the fruit of our labor for the POBSC Women's Department Popcorn Fundraiser. YOUR St. John WMU, church family and friends sold 103 CASES of pop-

corn! That's 3,000 bags of popcorn! Because we sold 100 cases of popcorn for the POBSC Women's Department, St. John WMU was awarded \$1,800.00! THANK YOU for helping us reach our goal! THIS money will allow us to fund the various ministry projects that are on our calendar to support. Again, thank you SO much!

St. John WMU also brought back the Annual WMU Bazaar! We had ALL kinds of vendors. The famous St. John Cookbook was sold by our Children and Youth Department. WMU member, Rev. Betty Winters

shared her vintage furniture and fabric collection as well as other home crafted items for sale. Circle #2 and Circle #4 worked diligently to bring back the famous "Country Store!" It was a GREAT hit! The kitchen crew did a fantastic job. The pastry table was tremendous and our vendors were TOPS! Thank you St. John and ALL our friends for your support.

For the month of December, the St. John WMU will again partner with Secret Place Community Church in their outreach to Mabel Bassett Women's Correctional Facility.



*Lady Jacqueline,
Pastor Jamison
and Edwina Romby*

We are excited to be able to help provide two pairs of socks, a candy cane, and a Christmas card to each inmate – OVER 1,100 women! If you would like to donate to this project, please give your financial donation to any WMU officer or Circle Chairperson. You can make checks payable to St. John Baptist Church. We will make sure that your donation goes towards the purchase of these Christmas gifts. Please DO NOT buy socks. Thank you in advance for your financial contribution.

The WMU will also come together for our Annual WMU Bouquet, which is our recognition and Christmas celebration. We are SO grateful that we have been blessed to come back together for the first time in 3 years!

As always, the St. John WMU is looking for women who not only want to study God's Word, but who also want to put the Word of God into practice. Come join us! We would love to have you. We intend to go higher and do more for the Lord in 2023!



VIP Highlights

Submitted by Velma James Smith



What awesome times we had this year. The VIP Ministry mission is centered around engaging our Seasoned Saints in spiritual, physical and social activities. God blessed us in all our going and comings. Special thanks to our activity committee members: Mae Burge, Sandra Wallace, Daryl Davis and Cynthia Davis.

We look forward to another great time at our Annual Christmas Dinner, December 11th right after church service.

Thank you to all our ministry participants. Merry Christmas ...Happy New Year.



Activity Committee

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator

Greetings All!! Praying God's choice blessings upon each of you as we celebrate this advent season. As you go about doing the typical things you do at Christmas, let's remember what the season is really about....remember that it's about the gift that God gave to save humanity from the penalty of death as a result of his own sin. Thank you God for the gift of your son Jesus...the gift that keeps on giving in this life and in the life to come. Jesus is the reason for the season.

As we embark upon a new church year, I wanted to provide a recap (below) of the Parish Fellowship activities for the 2022 Church Year.

- For the Church Year 2022, Six (6) individuals were Baptized, and the Right Hand of Fellowship was given to Twenty-Nine (29) new members!
- The Parish Fellowship as-

signed 5 new coordinators (Deborah Glover, Beverly Kirk, Kevin Smith, Brenda Perry, Shelia Edwards and Glenda Denson.

- In January, PF reestablished the Prayer Breakfast. It was revised to be quarterly vs monthly...3 have been held so far in 2022 and were well attended. The 4th will be held on December 4th where we are inviting our 57 new members who joined since Nov 2019..this promises to be our largest breakfast yet!

- PF held 2 CONNECT Community Forum via Zoom with special guest Valentia Doolin of OHFA in February; and Valarie Howard of One Church, One Child in August.

- PF conducted 2 community projects; we delivered needed clothing for the City Rescue Mission and we complete remodeling/renovation of our

member Anastasis Hillard's home through the Anna's House Habitat Project.

- PF was happy to issue Happy Birthday Greetings each month of members; and to offer special thanks to our PF Coordinators and Deacons.

It's been a great year!! Glory be to God for the things he has done. We look forward with great expectation to what will be in 2023!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MEMBERS!!

DECEMBER MEMBERS, it's your birthday month and we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!** Let's give a birthday "shout-out to Wilma Newton, December PF Coordinator whose birthday is December 28th. Thank you Sis. Wilma for all you do. I want to give a "Shout-Out" to our December Deacons, Brothers Richard



Wilma Newton

Gardner, Charles Shepherd and Donnie Smith. Thank you for all you do!!

LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister

Hand Me Up(s) — Evangelism and St. John Answering God's Call to Service

In ST. MARK 10:13-15, WE FIND THIS STORY...." And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was displeased, and said unto them **SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME, AND FORBID THEM NOT: FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD.** Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. "HAND ME UP(S)" is pleased to say, we are child friendly. We were very conscious at the November distribution that we had lots and lots of children, toddlers, youth and teenagers. We are glad that our families are aware that they are welcome with their children. Your gifts, ST JOHN MISSIONARY CHURCH FAMILY, have allowed us to include children through clothing and toys. In November we had 66 adults sign in. They shopped for their families, **their children**, extended families and the homeless.

WE ALWAYS THANK YOU, OUR DONORS AND WORKERS. DONORS FOR NOVEMBER: Diane McDaniels, Alice and Lawrence Myers, Terry Spigner, Reverend Wanda Tho-

mas, Ernest & Valerie Helaire, Reverend Betty Winters, Jenny Membere and family. WORKERS FOR NOVEMBER AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022....Tamique Perry, Lisa Shelton, Wanzetta Woody, Judy Rackett, Denise Blakely, Diane Wright, Ardena Harris, Curry Harris.

ANGEL TREE AND PRISON MINISTRY THANKS OUR SPONSORS....THANK YOU ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY FOR IMPACTING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN.....SPONSORS....Dr. and Mrs. M.L. (Jackie) Jemison, Charles & Jerri Shepherd, Cynthia Knight, Reggie & Sherry Richardson, Barbara Crawford, Reverend and Mrs. David (Diane) Lounds, Mae Burge, Sandra Wallace, Carolyn Nero, Ted Saxton, Sponsor 18(we did not have your name at printing), Vicki Watson, Joanie Johnson, Ray McCormick, Bobby and Anna Sharp, Dianne Turner, Rosa Gibson and Felicia Adams, Marjorie Hammond, Patrick & Angelia Wilson, Renita Fish-Wisby, Reverend William Myles, Beatrice Harris, Diane Franklin, Roy &

("Evangelism Ministry" continued on page 7)

NORTH TO WILSHIRE

Bus Transportation Services

"Need a ride to church services?"
CALL FOR THE BUS
DIAL: 478-5644, Ext. 160

The Bus Transportation Ministry will pick-up individuals for the Enrichment Hour (Sunday School), Worship Service, Prayer Meeting, including P31 and SOS and most other church programs. Please call this number at least two (2) hours before your services or program start time. Leave a message on answering services giving us your name, address and phone number. On Sunday mornings, Transportation Ministry will take individuals home immediately after service. Anyone desiring to stay after church for dinners or other programs will need to make provisions for their transportation back home.

Thank You, Deacon James Harris
A blessed service, rendered by the church

SOUTH TO FIRST STREET

WEST TO WESTERN

EAST TO BRYANT

You may view the Beacon on the church website

www.stjohnokc.org


You can follow us on Facebook:

Search for St. John Missionary Baptist Church of OKC

DON'T FORGET

The membership can keep abreast of what is going on at St. John by submitting your news to the BEACON newspaper mailbox no later than the Third Sunday of every month.



Social Media Volunteer Needed

The church is in need of responsible/committed volunteers to work with Rev. Marcus Carruthers in updating and maintaining our social media accounts. If you are skilled and interested in serving in this area, please contact Rev. Marcus Carruthers at (479) 263-8363.

The Beacon

Published monthly to communicate more effectively the mission of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church.

Staff

Debra Johnson • Diana Bell • Lamonia Parker



PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton

The Will of God

"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven."

Our secret communication with God is the place where we learn the great lessons concerning God's will. Desire is awakened in us for the life it promises, as the Holy Spirit reveals God's perfecting work through Jesus Christ. As we believe and receive it into our hearts according to His purpose. His will masters our hearts according to His purpose. His will masters our hearts, giving us courage to be confident in God's assurance that we can do our part, so that our will on earth can correspond and cooperate with his will.

Let this be our heart's one desire—that in everything the will of God be done in us and by us, even as it is in heaven. By God's grace, every hour of our lives can be lived in complete harmony with the will of God.

We need to maintain surrender—to do what God wills us to do. The God we worship ask of us perfect union of our wills with His will so that the will go God in its beauty and application to daily life can be truly known.

As we fellowship with God in the inner chamber of the morning watch, waiting and depending with a childlike attitude of truth on what He gives us, we receive the knowledge of His will as well as the power to perform it. In surrender to do all that He wills, the study of His Word and this time of prayer bring true and full blessing.

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" continued from page 6)

Flossie Thurston, Barbara Ross, Annie Friday, Daryl & Cynthia Davis, Rhonda Hall Williams, Varite Williams, Mabel Friday, Dr. Daryl & Mrs. Estraletta Green, Cleo & Delinda Ruck, Reverend Betty Winters, Judy Rackett, Shirlee Tomlin, Diane Wright, Thomas & Linda Jaha, Penny Emery, Vernetta Johnson, Debra Johnson, Carole Walker, Richard & Theresa Perkins, Ben & Gwinetta Lang, Lawrence & Alice Myers, AND ANYONE WE MISSED, THROUGH ANGEL TREE, YOU SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME TO CHRIST. MAY GOD SPEAK IN THEIR LIVES SHOW THEM ST. JOHN CARES.

OPPORTUNITIES IN PRISON MINISTRY: PRISON MINISTRY DOES NEED YOU! Reverend Cornelius Wade continues to serve JUVENILES IN CORRECTIONS THROUGH THE BERRY HOUSE, every 2nd and 4th Saturday. Reverend Marcus Carruthers continues to serve at Lexington (every Sunday) and he mentors Julius Jones at Joseph Harp Correctional Facility. **COMING IN 2023: Reverend Betty Winters will develop a team to serve at the Mabel Bassett Correctional Facility.**

AGAIN, THANK YOU, ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY, FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS, CARING AND SHARING IN 2022, MAY THE LORD GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU REAL GOOD ALWAYS, WADE.



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

The Ambassadors' Concert Choir
and the Ambassadors' Children/Youth Choir Presents

Behold This Star

Honoring our beloved and longtime benefactors
Richard 'Dick' and Jeanette Sias
(Ad Astra Foundation)



Thank you to our sponsors



Saturday, December 24, 2022

Doors open at 6:15 PM, Concert starts at 7:00 PM

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
5700 N. Kelley Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Scan here to visit our website



www.ambassadorschoir.com

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