

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

February • 2024 (405) 478-3344

The Pastor's Pen

Beloved Members,

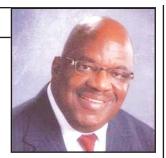
I do trust this article finds you and family doing well. My constant prayer is that the Lord's grace and mercy will abide with us as we travel through life.

February is designated as the LOVE month. Happy Valentine to ALL the beautiful ladies of our church family. Enjoy each and every moment of the day! Love One Another. Let the love of the Lord flow throw your hearts richly.

Jesus says, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35 KJV.

Your love for one another proves to the world that you are a disciple of Christ. Choose to Love. Choose to Love in times of chaos. Love in times of turmoil. Love when it's inconvenient. Love when it's not expedient. Choose to reflect the Love of Christ at all times.

John 13:35 declares, "By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves]." Keep on showing the



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

Love of Christ. Choose to reflect the heart of God towards one another. Choose to be selfless. Choose to radiate God's Love in times of distress. Let God lead and soften your heart in every season.

John13:35 NLT declares, "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." According to Strong's Concordance, the Greek word for "Disciple" is 'mathetes' (G3101), which means, "A learner or a pupil." Learn to Love like Christ. Pattern yourself after Christ. Learn to Love like Christ. Learn to lead like Christ. Let Christ lead your communication. Let Christ lead your language. Let Christ lead your actions. Pattern yourself after Him. Choose to be selfless.

HAVE A GREAT MONTH!!

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

"Making A Way Out of No Way"

Submitted by Jacquie Jemison



Theme: MAKING A WAY OUT OF NO WAY Scripture: Acts 14:21-28

February is dedicated as Black History Month, honoring the Triumphs and many Struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. History. St. John Missionary Baptist Church is excited to pause, recognize, and salute our History as set up by God.

Following are the many events for the Full Month of February 2024. Every week, we have designed an attire for members to wear.

- 1st Sunday, February 4, 2024, we will follow our communion attire for Deacons and Deaconess.
- 2nd Sunday, February 11th, 2024, we will address Healthy Heart Sunday and asking members to wear the color "Red" attire. Also, special guest musician will be James Henderson



James Henderson, special guest musician on February 11th.

from Dallas, TX. Mr. Henderson was formerly with Kirk's Franklin's "God's Property" and the lead singer on the song "More Than I Can

("Making a Way Out of No Way" continued on page 2)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

"What does obey the gospel mean?"

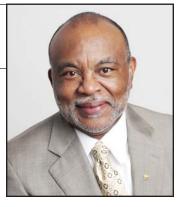
Language such as "obey the gospel" is often lacking in modern language of Scripture. It is not only lacking, but is often foreign. The term "obey the gospel" suggests the gospel is structured, understandable, and authoritative. Many think more in terms of "get religion," something which externally is given, by "get saved." "God does it all," they explain, "man is passive"

and really plays no part.

To obey the gospel means you believe the gospel. Belief is a prerequisite to initial salvation (Mk. 16: 16). Belief of the gospel is inseparably involved in this saving belief (cf. Mk. 1: 15). It is strange that the common language such as "get saved" or "get religion" is not found in the New Testament. However, we do find such expressions as obey

the gospel. Paul wrote in quoting Isaiah 53: 1, "for Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?" (Rom. 10: 16) Also notice how Paul used "obey" as a synonym for Isaiah's word "believed."

The language "obey the gospel" clearly teaches the necessity of man's obedience. The lost sinner in initially coming to God must obey (Acts 10 34, 35,). The child of God must also obey the gospel (Phili. 2: 12). The gospel must be obeyed - not human creeds (Mk. 7: 6-13). I know such teaching is not common and is not popular. Nonetheless, it is what God says in His word.



One of the apostle Paul's favorite subjects was Jesus' return in judgment. Please consider what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thes. 1: 8, see verses six through nine) Is obeying the gospel part of your vocabulary and concept? Let me encourage you to join one of the many Christian education opportunities here at St. John, be encouraged!

("Making A Way Out of No Way" continued from page 1)

Bear"...we are excited to present him on February 11th.

- 3rd Sunday, February 18th, 2024, we are asking everyone to sport their African Attire.
- 4th Sunday, February 25th, 2024, we are wearing our high school or collegiate Attire.

We will be honoring some outstanding personalities on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday. Judge Martha Oakes, Mayor of Edmond, Oklahoma Mr. Darrell Davis and our Guest Speaker Rev. Josh L. Trimble. We will have a special Surprise Honoree on the 3rd Sunday, so you must be in attendance to find out who they are. One point: they are a member, and they do not know this will happen.

Each Sunday we will have exciting fun and blessed events. The Children and Youth Department will direct 3rd Sunday Service, and great performances are ready for your entertainment.

The 4th Sunday is our "Grand Finale." Our special guest is the renowned Concert Choir of Langston University. Our foyer will be filled with Fraternity and Sorority memorabilia, educating our children about the history of Fraternities

and Sororities as they prepare and progress through College.

Last but never least, our best fellowship on this side of Glory, "The Soul Food Dinner." All are welcome, but you MUST sign up for a place to sit so we can get an accurate count. Sign up is on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays in, February, after Morning Worship.

All Month, we will have Special Events.

On the 3rd and 4th Wednesday evenings, during prayer service, there will be dinner and a Black History Movie. Come out and enjoy yourself, bring a family member, and children are welcome.

A Black History Essay contest with prize money will be held by the Youth Department. Please contact Rev. Keith Carter if your young person would like to participate.

It all began on January 28, when a large group of ladies went to "The Crowns Tea" following Morning worship. The history of Black women wearing their Sunday Hats, what a rich history, and free lunch for all were included with the event.

Keep our committee in prayer, and to God be the Glory.



February Anniversaries

Preston, Isaiah & Donetta — February 7, 1978 — 46 years

Jones, Larry & Joyce — February 11, 1971 — 53 years

Helaire, Ernest & Valerie — February 14, 1981 — 43 years

Lipscomb, Darin K & Yvette — February 14, 2003 — 21 years

White, Roshan & Doughty, Cherryll — February 14, 2016 — 8

Years

Johnson, Clinton & Vernetta — February 15, 1975 — 49 years Payton, Raymond & Mildred — February 18, 1984 — 40 years Perkins, Richard & Theresa — February 21, 1982 — 42 years

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister

REBRANDING VOLUNTEER SUNDAY! APPRECIATING ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK

Evangelism and Prison ministry as the leads for VOLUNTEER UNDAY/SUNDAY/JULY 28, 2024....ALERT YOU OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGES......Volunteers of St. John Missionary Baptist Church Family do a lot of very excellent work and we have thought about it and prayed about it.... HOW CAN WE RECOGNIZE ALL OF YOU? These projections will guide us to the future as we recognize volunteers more fully as a group.

I. MINISTRY/AUXILIARY LEADERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO HELP US IDENTIFY THOSE WHO EXCELL. Beginning in January 2024 please send your volunteer of the month to Reverend Cornelius D. Wade, cwade@stjohnokc.org. We will print a monthly list of your volunteers. YOU, IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH FAMILY, FEEL FREE TO DRAW OUR ATTENTION TO THE EXCELLENT WORK HERE IN THE CHURCH OR BROADER COMMUNITY. Monthly recognition will allow us to recognize volunteers in real time, the Volunteer Sunday and Volunteer Brunch will be additional ways of letting our volunteers know that they are loved and appreciated.

II. ALL VOLUNTEERS TO BE HONORED WILL BE NOMINATED NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2024. Nominations for 2023-2024 will end on June 30, 2024.

III. VOLUNTEER BRUNCH/SATURDAY/JULY 27, 2024....11:00 A.M. A "Volunteer Brunch" will be held Saturday, July 27, 2024. Our own Rudy Valentine and Team will prepare the food. Ministry Leaders or their appointees will celebrate the volunteers recognized January through June 2024. Celebration can include recognition by name and presentation of a gift during the "Volunteer Brunch" program.

IV. ATTENDEES/FOR BRUNCH MUST SIGN UP ON A

IV. ATTENDEES/FOR BRUNCH MUST SIGN UP ON A LISTWHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE IN LATE JUNE. To be fair to our Culinary/Social Chairman and team and to request funds for the Volunteer Brunch....we need real numbers to prepare. PLEASE SIGN UP TO LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING?

GIFTS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS! We are asking each ministry to recognize all members nominated from your ministry with a gift your ministry has agreed on.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US SAY "THANK YOU" TO THOSE WHO DO SO MUCH TO MAKE THIS THE BEST CHURCH ON THIS SIDE OF JUDGEMENT!

"HAND ME UP(S)". Please pray with us as we restock our racks. Pray for our efforts to get outside heaters. Pray that the weather will cooperate, and we will continue to bless the lives of those in need. SAY THANK YOU AND PRAY FOR OUR TEAM THAT WE DEPEND ON: Wanzetta Woody, Denice Blakely, Shirlee Tomlin, Tamique Perry, Lisa Shelton, Ardeena Harris, Curry Harris, 2ND SATURDAY SUPPORT, Judy Rackett, Clara Hayes, Andrea Chandler, Rhonda Hall Williams, Diane Wright. THANK YOU TO THESE DONORS: Dewey Salman, Kathy Simpson, Malcolm Stoughtenborogh, Ben & Gwinetta Lang, Donna Vaughan, Carole Walker, Lea Lee, Debra Johnson, Rich-

ard & Teresa Perkins, Yvette Polite, Barbara Roberts, Cleo & Delina Ruck, Ann Brown.

PRISON MINISTRY: The St. John Missionary Baptist Church Family made a special contribution to the Joseph Harp Prison and ministry led by Christopher Benson for a program held January 31, 2023. REGULAR PRISON MINISTRY PROGRAMMING INCLUDE...WOMEN PRISON MINISTRY/MABEL BASSETT/Reverend Betty Branch Winters and Team. ADULT MEN PRISON MINISTRY/JOSEPH HARP AND LEXINGTON PRISON...Reverend Marcus Carruthers. JUVENILE PRISON MINISTRY/BERRY HOUSE/Reverend Cornelius D. Wade....EVERYDAY EVANGELISM & TALKING TO GOD IN PRAYER. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY!!!



PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton

THE MISTAKE

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you." John 15:4
A person thinks, I have my business, family, and community responsibilities. In addition, I am to serve God, in order to keep from sin. I hope God will help me.

That is not right. When Christ came, he bought you with His blood. In those days, there was slavery. If someone bought a slave, the slave was required to take orders from his master. The slave lived as if he had no will or interest of his own. His one responsibility was to promote the well-being of his master.

In a similar manner. I have been purchased with the blood of Christ. I am to live every day with one thought. How can I please my Master?

We find the Christian life so difficult because we seek for

God's blessing while we live life according to our own desires. We make our own plans and choose our own work. Then we ask the Lord to help us not to go too far wrong. Instead, our relationship with Jesus should be that we are entirely at His disposal. We should ask Him daily, "Lord, is there anything in me that is not according to Your will, that is not entirely surrendered to you?"

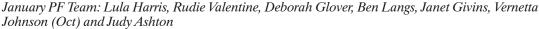
If we, will wait patiently for His guidance, there will spring up a relationship between us and Christ so close that we will be amazed. He will take actual possession of us and give us unbroken fellowship.

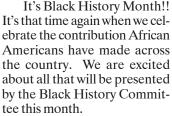
Let us continue to PRAY daily wherever you are at 12:00 NOON for our Pastor, Dr. M. L. Jemison, his family, health, strength, and guidance.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator







February is also known as the Love Month. For God so loved the world that he gave. God's example to us is that love is action...Love is shown in what we do vs what we say. Reach out and show an act of love this month and everyday! Love's the one thing that matters most in this life and will extend into the life to come. Touch someone this month with the finger of love.

PF HIGHLIGHTS:

• The January PF started the year off strong supporting the Refreshing Hour. Along with Bro. Rudie Valentine, there was representation from January PF

coordinators, deacons and group leaders the entire month helping prepare meals and serving our members. I want to thank Deborah Glover and Judy Ashton for their leadership to January PF.

• Baptisms & Right Hand of Fellowship (RHOF)

Baptisms for the month of January are as follows: DeAndre Thompson - October; Andrew Liddell (child) - July; and Taria Taylor- April. The RHOF was given to Carolyn Bowens – September. PF, be sure to reach out to these members and welcome them the family of God and to St. John.

• HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

FEBRUARY MEMBERS, it's your birthday month and we say HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!! Let's give a birthday "shout-out to Sis. Ruby Nichols (Birthday February 14th) and Sis. Mary Robinson (Birthday

February 12th). Thank you Ruby and Mary for all you do. I also want to also give a special "Shout-Out" to our February Deacons Homer Dade, James Nichols and Nathaniel Starks. Thank you for all you do!!

We look forward to seeing you each 1st Sunday as we celebrate your birthday month. Come get your Birthday Sticker and proudly wear it!! And be sure to stop by the PF table in Fellowship Hall to greet your PF Team and receive your ice cream coupon!!

As always, please 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!!







Sis. Ruby Nichols



Sis. Mary Robinson

LOVE IN ACTION - THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!



Greetings for February!

By Reverend Cherryll E. Doughty

Our next food giveaway is scheduled for Saturday, February 10th from 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Ministry's on schedule for February are Black History Committee, Scholarship Ministers Wives, and the February Parish Fellowship. January ministries will also support the Food Pantry since weather did not permit a giveaway in January. Those ministries are Nursing Corp, House & Grounds, Physical Fitness, Audio-Video-Visual Presentation, Homeownership, and January Parish Fellowship. Ministry members are to be present at 10:00 a.m. Special thanks to Team Food Pantry! We are in this TOGETHER and with God's help we can! Shalom

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny R. Emery, President, St. John Women's Missionary Union

Happy February!

Thank you, St. John, for ALL you are doing to support the St. John Women's Missionary Union! We are grateful for your prayer, support AND for your monetary support!

The WMU is doing great! We are gaining members and workers every month and we are excited about what God is doing in our members' lives. Join us for our monthly JOINT Mission Meeting on Saturday, February 3rd as we begin our study of "Be Ready." Other programs and projects scheduled for the month of February: the WMU will share "love" with all of our sick and shut in members. We will bless them with "Love Baskets" delivered on or before Valentine's Day.

The WMU will also support First Lady Jacquie Jemison as she speaks on February 10th at



the Church of the Living God, #290 at 555 E. Wilshire Blvd, OKC 73105 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please call 405-478-2354 for additional information. We look forward to celebrating Black History Month and taking time to honor and remember our shared history.

Hats off and kudos to our Circle Chairpersons and WMU Executive Committee. We have Circle Meetings during the day and during the week. Please call the church office for additional Information.

February is Heart Health Awareness Month

Submitted by Vernetta Johnson, R.N.

February is Heart Health Awareness Month. Here are 7 healthy habits that could save your life.

*Live smoke - free. If you smoke quit. Don't vape and avoid second hand smoke.

*Monitor your blood pressure. Keep your numbers below 120/80 mm Hg.

*Maintain a healthy weight. Target a body mas index (BMI) of less than 25.

*Watch your cholesterol. Strive for a total cholesterol less than 200 mg/dL.

*Control your blood sugar. Aim for a fasting blood glucose less than 100 mg/dL or and A1C of less than 5.7%.

*Get active. Log 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity – like brisk walking – per week (0r 75 minutes of vigorous – intensity activity).

Eat a heart – healthy diet. Make vegetables and fruits, whole grains, and fish mealtime staples. Limit sodium, saturated fat, and added sugar.

You don't have to make big changes to reduce your heart attack and stroke risk.





SAVE THE DATE

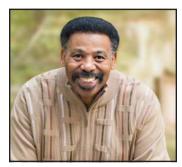
The Oklahoma Baptist "Advance Conference" featuring guest speaker Tony Evans! Prepare to be inspired and encouraged to carry the Gospel to friends and neighbors as you engage and listen to pastors and evangelists from Oklahoma and across the nation.

March 4-5, 2024. St. John Missionary Baptist Church, OKC. Free Event, No registration necessary. More information coming soon!!...Mark your calendars. See preliminary schedule below.

March 4-5, 2024

St. John Missionary Baptist Church, OKC Free Event, No registration necessary More information coming soon!!

Schedule: Monday, March 4, 2024 **Morning Session** 9:30 - 11:30



Tony Evans

Preachers:

Dr. Bryan Pain; Pastor at First Baptist Church - Duncan, Oklahoma

Collin Coffee; Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church - Inola, Oklahoma

Dr. Doug Melton; Pastor at Southern Hills Baptist Church -OKC, Oklahoma

Afternoon Session

1:30 - 4:30

Preachers:

Dr. Scott Sullivan; Georgia

Baptist Mission Board - Discipleship Dr. Jeff DeGiacomo; Pastor at

Immanuel Baptist Church -Shawnee, Oklahoma

Tarvoris Uzoigwe "Coach Tee"; Oklahoma Baptists Evangelism & Apologetics Ministry Partner Dr. Stephen Rummage; Pastor at Quail Springs Baptist Church -OKC, Oklahoma

Evening Session 6:30 - 8:30

Preachers:

ADVANCE CONFERENCE TOGETHER

Dr. Major Jemison; Pastor at St. John Missionary Baptist -OKC, Oklahoma

Dr. Tony Evans; Pastor at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship - Dallas,

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 Morning Session - Focus **Group Breakout**

9:30 - 11:30

Focus Groups - Extended breakout session focused on your area of ministry!

Topics TBA

11:30 – 1 pm – Lunch – Box lunches will be provided!

Tuesday Afternoon

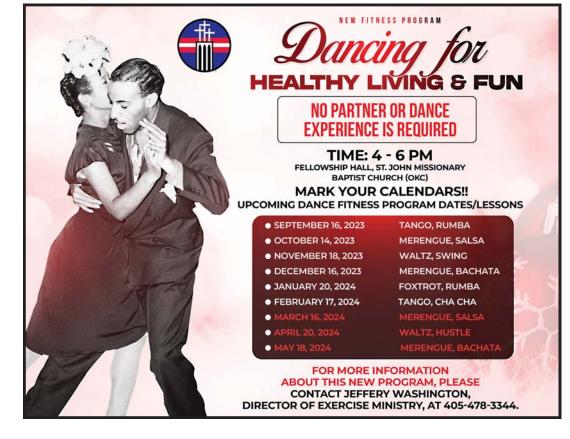
1:30 -4:00

Preachers:

Shane Pruitt: North American Mission Board

Dr. Anthony Jordan; Retired Executive Director-Treasurer -Oklahoma Baptists

Dr. Fred J. Luter Jr.; Pastor at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church - New Orleans, Louisiana





EAST

WESTERN

0

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

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.

The Beacon

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

Staff

Debra Johnson • Diana Bell • Lamonia Parker











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.

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

Thank You! Thank You!

Pastor Jemison & St. John Family,

Thank you for your prayers, calls, cards, food, and love gifts given to my family during the Homegoing of Michael. Your thoughtfulness and kindness was much appreciated and will be remembered with love. Thank you for continuing in prayer for us. Blessings

Dianne Turner, Demetrick, Meyah, Rhaven, and J'nary

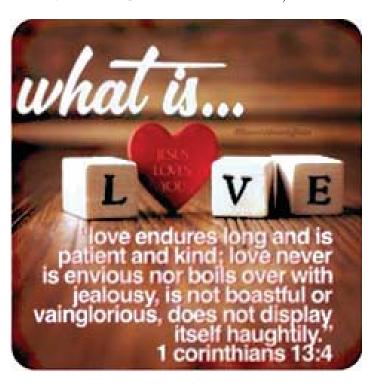
Pastor Jemison,

Thank you sincerely for your kind expression of sympathy and thoughtfulness. It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered by the family of Rosemary Rich.

The 39th Annual George M. Richardson **Ebony Awareness Bowl** is coming!

On Saturday, February 24th at 1:30pm, OUR St. John Youth will be participating in this VERY special Black History Contest. Please come and support Morgan Lounds, McKenzie Lounds, and Nyeemah Stevenson at Tabernacle Baptist Church – again that's Saturday, February 24th at 1:30pm.

Thank you, St. John Youth Dept. Rev. Keith Carter, Chair



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