

The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

August • 2021

(405) 478-3344

The Pastor's Pen

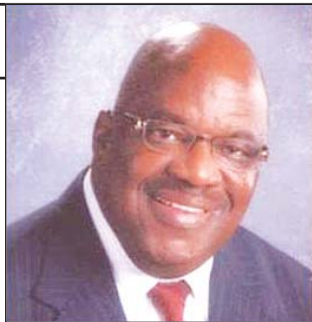
Beloved Members,

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 this The Lord's Church. It will mark 46 years of preaching the Gospel and 38 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.

On behalf of Jacquie, Kinsley and me, thank you for every act and gesture of kindness we've received. We remain prayerful and solicits 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 on duty that specific night a few months before. The man said he



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

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,
Pastor Major L. Jemison*

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

38th Appreciation Service Honoring Dr. & Mrs. M. L. Jemison & Family



Dr. M. L. Jemison and Mrs. Jacqueline Jemison

On Sunday August 15, 2021 the entire St. John Church Family will join together in a joyous celebration with Pastor Major L. Jemison and Family. This will mark 38 faithful years of outstanding leadership and service to this the Lord's Church.

The Theme for the day is "Honoring One Who God" taken from I Timothy 5:17-19 *The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. 18 For scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." 19 Do not entertain an accusa-*



Reverend Anthony LaRoy Scott

tion against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.

Our special guest for the 10:45 a.m. Worship Service will be Reverend Anthony LaRoy Scott, Pastor of the First Bap-

("Anniversary"

continued on page 2)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Handling Life's ups and Downs

I have been blessed to experience some of life's greatest joys. I remember getting a bicycle at a very early age and riding free handed without any worries, I remember the joy of graduating from high school, college, and post graduate studies. I remember the joy of marrying my high school sweetheart (30 years ago) and witnessing the birth of our three children. I remember our first home, our first new car, our jobs with corporate companies with many benefits.

I also have gone through some difficult times in my life. I remember going to college with financial difficulties. I remember when I had to put a brick under my back tire in order that my car would not roll

away, because the brakes didn't work, I remember as a young married couple how tough it was to keep a budget. I remember watching my son packing a gun that was as big as he was getting on a plane going to war in Iraq, and I also remember the pain of losing a mother and father.

Life is great and is full of ups and downs. As Christians we are faced with many of life's challenges and share a glorious assurance that we are saved from the penalty of sin, and that one day we will be saved from the very presence of sin. With life's ups and downs we have got to be able to handle what ever comes our way. As Christians there is a word that best describes our "process", it is called sanctification. You and I do not

really struggle with knowing what God has done for us, but we do struggle with the day-to-day living. I am saved from the penalty of sin, I will be saved from the presence of sin, and right now I am being saved from the very power of sin.

Let me encourage you to take a Bible course here at St. John to help you in your day-to-day living. The Bethel Bible Series would be a great place to



start, contact me about joining a class soon. You may contact me at Lckirk@stjohnokc.org or call (405) 478-3344.

("Anniversary" continued from page 1)

tist Church North Tulsa. The bio for Reverend Scott is provided below. There will be a 3:00 p.m. service where churches from across OKC will join in the celebration. Pastor J. A. Reed of Fairview Baptist Church – OKC, will close out the 3:00 p.m. worship hour.

Each family within St. John is being asked to bring a special love offering of \$38.00 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 year's anniversary. Please help set the stage for another wonderful church-wide event.

Bio of Pastor Anthony Scott:

Reverend Anthony LaRoy Scott has served in the pastoral ministry for twenty-eight years. He is nearing his thirteenth year as the lead pastor of the historic First Baptist Church North Tulsa.

Pastor Scott graduated from Thomas A. Edison High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma then moved on to earn a Bachelor of Business Administration from Langston University. He later earned both a Master of Theology and a Master of Min-

istry from Andersonville Theological Seminary.

He is the Vice President of the Western Region of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and the President of the Oklahoma Baptist State Convention. Pastor Scott served briefly as an Adjunct Professor at Bacone College and has been invited to be a guest lecturer for Oklahoma Baptist University and Tulsa Community College, and other academic institutions.

Fulfilling his passion to write, he contributes regularly to the Oklahoma Eagle and periodically to the Tulsa World and Baptist Messenger.

He and his wife Kelly have been married for twenty-eight years and they have two adult sons, Anthony, and Jared, one daughter-in-law, Nakeya, and three grandchildren, Dawne, Aiden, and Emerie. He is the son of Reverend Donald L. Scott and Velma Sleet Scott.

You can reach him by email, 4srpastor@fbcnt.org or by phone 918.582.5129. His sermons, teachings, and inspirational messages may be viewed on YouTube (FBCNT1414), Facebook (First Baptist Church North Tulsa) or the church website (www.fbcnt.org).



**God Bless You Pastor
Jemison & Family
From the Luella Dunn
Children's Department**



Annual Back To School Sunday - 2021

Submitted by Sis Ruby Nichols

August 22, 2021 is Back-To-School Sunday at St. John. The program is an annual event implemented through the St. John Scholarship Committee which is under the prayerful leadership of Pastor M.L. Jemison and church leaders. The committee's theme is "INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH: Expecting their Best." The purposes are to celebrate learning; to encourage all who are involved to participate actively in the educational process; and to challenge students to give their best efforts toward preparing themselves for opportunities that will come.

The guest speaker for the back to school program is Reverend Sean A. Jarrett, Senior Pastor of the New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Tulsa. His bio is as follows:

Sean Jarrett serves as the Senior Pastor of New Jerusalem Tulsa, affectionately known as New J, in the North Tulsa, Okla-



Rev. Sean A. Jarrett

homa community. Pastor Jarrett's ability to proclaim the Gospel in a way that honors God's truth while giving practical guidance on how to apply those truths has led many people to experience love and encounter family at New J. Since the age of 10, Pastor Jarrett has not only had a heart for God's Word, but he's also had a heart for God's people.

His call to ministry has been shaped by a foundational desire to minister to underserved urban communities - a call reminiscent of Luke 4:18-19 when Jesus said "The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." He has walked out his call to empower underserved communities, not only through his work as the Senior Pastor of New Jerusalem Tulsa, but also through his advocacy and partnership with community organizations such as the Margaret Hudson Foundation and the North Tulsa Community Education Task Force where he has served as a board member. His latest effort to empower the underserved North Tulsa community includes his partnership with

Habitat for Humanity to establish affordable housing.

Pastor Jarrett is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and is currently pursuing his Masters of Divinity at Phillips Theological Seminary with a designation in Black Church Studies. Sean is married to his college sweetheart, Tiffany, has two daughters, Dasija and Isabella, and has three sons, Daniel, Drake, and Dylan.



August Anniversaries

Nichols, James & Ruby
August 2, 1969 — 52 years

Watson, Kenneth & Rita
August 4, 1990 — 31 years

Wood, Jon & Diane
August 6, 1994 — 27 years

Benson, Lee & Voncile
August 12, 2005 — 16 years

Ray, Billy & Kathy
August 14, 1993 — 28 years

Thurston, Roy & Flossie
August 14, 1965 — 56 years

Bray, Lamont & Veola
August 18, 1973 — 48 years

Harris, Leroy & Marjorie
August 24, 1974 — 47 years

Brown, David & Jacqueline R.
August 28, 2004 — 17 years

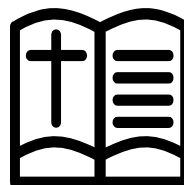
Liddell, Larry & Renee
August 28, 2010 — 11 years

Adams, John & Elizabeth
August 31, 1984 — 37 years



PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton



Half an Hour of Silence in Heaven

*"There was silence throughout heaven for about half an hour ... Then...
incense was given to him to mix with the prayers of God's people." — Revelation 8:1, 3*

There was silence in heaven for about half an hour—to bring the prayers of the saints before God. Many of God's children have also felt the absolute need of silence and withdrawal from the things of earth for half an hour—to present their prayers before God. In so doing, they have been strengthened for their daily work.

How often the complaint is heard that there is no time for prayer. Yet often the confession is made that, even if time could

be found, one feels unable to spend the time in real communion with God. Don't think "I will not know how to spend the time." Just believe that, if you bow in silence before God, He will reveal Himself to you.

If you need help, read some passages of scripture and let God's Word speak to you. Then bow in deepest humility before God and wait on Him. He will begin to work within you as you intercede for those whom He has laid on your heart. Keep praying, though the time may

seem long. God will surely meet you.

Is it not worth the trouble to take half an hour alone with God? In heaven itself, there was need for half an hour's silence to present the prayers of the saints before God. If you persevere, you may find the half hour that seems the most difficult will become the most blessed in your whole life.

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

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator



Greetings to all!! August is the month we celebrate the anniversary of our First Family... Pastor Jemison, Lady Jacqueline and MaKinsley. The Parish Fellowship Ministry congratulates you on your 38th Anniversary! God bless you for the time you give, the things you do and the care you give.



The next fellowship is tentatively set for Wednesday, August 25th @ 7:30 p.m. Special guest will be Representative Ajay Pittman and Attorney Jason Lowe. We'll be discussing state question 816 and the Referendum Petition 27. This should be informative and helpful. Be listening to announcements for details. Zoom ID and Password never changes....it is: MEETING ID: 245 333 9136 / PASSCODE: 830707

**JOIN THE
CONVERSATION...
ENJOY THE
FELLOWSHIP.....
CONNECT!!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
AUGUST MEMBERS!!**
AUGUST MEMBERS, it's your birthday month and we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**



Sis. Velma Smith




Sis. Cecile Brison

Let's give a birthday "shout-out" to Sis. Velma Smith (August 30th) and Sis. Cecile Brison (August 29th). Thank you for all you do.

LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!

ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



38

Faithful YEARS

2021

SUNDAY AUGUST 15

10:45AM & 3:00PM

5700 N. KELLEY AVE. OKC, OK

WWW.STJOHNOKC.ORG



*Pastor M. L. Jemison
& First Lady Jacqueline*

1 TIMOTHY 5:17-19

HONORING ONE WHO HONORS GOD

Honoring one who honors God

Expressions of Love

MESSAGES CAN BE LEFT ON FACEBOOK . CARDS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH ADDRESS . LOVE OFFERINGS ARE WELCOMED
CASH APP ACCOUNT USING @MAJORJEMISON . GIVE BY CLICKING ON THE "GIVINGS" TAB ON OUR WEBSITE @ WWW.STJOHNOKC.ORG

You
Tell
Us ...
We
Tell
Them.

Opiod Awareness/Substance Abuse Virtual Conference-2021

Submitted by Sis Veola Bray

The Family Support Ministry will, once again, participate in Overdose Awareness Day on August 31st. The Skydance Bridge will be lit up in Purple, at our request, to celebrate this international occasion. Please take note and drive by this beautiful bridge.

We are also proud to announce that we will partner with the Conference of Churches to highlight this event. The names of our Deacons - Greg DeMartra, Ben Langs, and Greg McCoy have been suggested to participate in the panel along with others in the community that have expertise in the mental health and substance abuse field. They will be an asset to the panel giving their input, worthwhile information, and testimonies. The time and link will be announced as we get closer to August 31st.

Also, for your information, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics currently has 184 drug disposal boxes located in law enforcement lobbies across the state. This year notes the 10th anniversary of a partnership aimed at reducing the theft and abuse of home prescription medication that is often



targeted by teens or friends/relatives with an Opiod addiction. OBN started the "Safe Trips for Scripts" program which involved installing permanent drug take-bake boxes in law enforcement lobbies. It allows citizens to safely dispose of unwanted

home medication, year-round. The drugs collected from the program are transported to Covanta Energy in Tulsa for destruction. So, if you have unwanted drugs in your home please take advantage of this opportunity to have them disposed of properly. In 2020, drug overdose deaths in the United States reached an all-time high at over 93,000 as Oklahoma also set a record of 1,002 drug-related fatalities. Often these fatal and non-fatal overdoses can be linked to medication stolen from home. According to surveys, nearly half of today's youth (47%) say it is easy to obtain prescription drugs from a parent's medicine cabinet, and 75% of heroin users reported they began their addiction by obtaining Opiods from the medicine cabinets of family and friends. So, please take advantage of this program by dropping them off at your local police department.

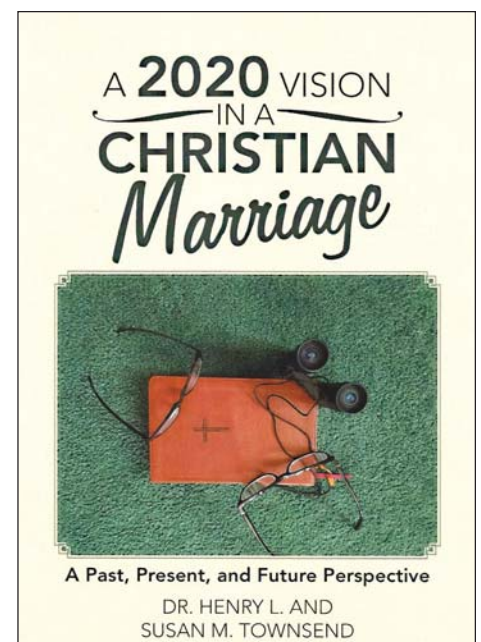
We are here to help and serve. There will be a chart of the locations provided to the church for your information. Please continue to pray for the ministry as we minister and mentor those that are in need of our help and resources.

Authors Henry & Susan Townsend Address Christian Marriage in New Book

Spiritually inspired, Deacon Henry L. and Deaconess Susan Townsend are co-authors of a new book entitled, "A 2020 Vision In a Christian Marriage, A Past, Present and Future Perspective." It is a marriage series that stimulates thought and discussion as well as an understanding of the beauty and value of marriage in God's design. Until the church fully opens, signed copies of the book are available by sending a \$15.00 check to the author's home address and you will receive an autographed copy by mail. We are encouraging couples of all ages to read this book because the content of the book covers marriage in all stages of life.



*Deacon Henry L. and
Deaconess Susan Townsend*





EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister



Evangelism Ministry Update!

Saturday, July 18, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Evangelism and Prison Ministries were right in the middle of the Challenge—MINISTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF MCGUIRE PLAZA. You gave us clothes for men, women, boys and girls—shoes, belts, costume jewelry, hair spray, wigs, some can goods and hygiene items...we gave it to them. The residents in the majority are older, but range from the 20(s) on up. There were some parents with children. There were Blacks and Whites. Residents had mental and physical challenges—speech impediments, amputated limbs, and some were wheel chair bound. They signed in and were allowed to shop for free and to take what they could

carry. The residents echoed the sentiments of some staff without knowing what we had said “this is really nice”. The residents seemed surprised that we were present with something nice for them. Some residents reported only having the clothing they were wearing. A young ROTC graduate came “My grandmother said if I came down here, I could get some clothes”. He got clothes and Margaret Richardson took a picture of him Sunday morning in full suit and tie going to Church. (He wanted clothes to interview in.) **ST. JOHN, YOU MET THE NEED AND WE THANK YOU AND WE THANK GOD. IT WAS A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE. ...”I was naked and you clothed me....even as you have done to the**

least of these, you have done it unto me...”

Many of the residents were very grateful and said **“GOD BLESS YOU” (to us)**. St. John met the need and **ST. JOHN SHARED THE GOSPEL (IN THE FORMAT) “GOD’S LETTER TO YOU”**.

The workers put in a whole day’s work starting at 8:00 a.m. and they reported they worked until 3:30 p.m. **“a whole Oklahoma City Public School work day”**. We thank God for all the **WILLING WORKERS**—Judy Rackett, Shirlee Tomlin, Francis Grayson, Carole Walker, Evangelist Betty Winters, Rev. Damascus Williams, Reggie Knight (Security and Safety), Margaret Richardson **BEHIND THE SCENES: Vernetta Demartra. CLOTHING DONORS: Dianne McDaniel, Greg and Venetta Demartra, Deacon Levert Parks, Killen, Texas, Donna Vaughn, Maxine Washington, Leonard Cayton. RACK SPONSORS: Metro First Realty Premier; Velma Smith, Dianne Wood. THANK YOU ST. JOHN FOR BEING SO GRACIOUS. We are praying about the next place to go. Please contact Rev. Cornelious D. Wade by text to share this ministry (405) 464-7914.**



Hand Me Ups in operation at McGuire Plaza.

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, Kenneth Washington
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

The Beacon

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

Staff

Debra Johnson • Diana Bell • Lamonia Parker

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 Sis. Debra Johnson in updating and maintaining our social media accounts. If you are skilled and interested in serving in this area, please contact Sis. Johnson at 816-7493.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Dear Pastor,

Thank you so much for everything...your prayers and expressions of sympathy are deeply appreciated. Please keep our family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Sincerely, Thomas & Linda Jaha

Pastor,

Thank you so much for your support, prayers, guidance and the W.K. Jackson Scholarship. This much appreciated scholarship will provide support toward my college education. Your spiritual teachings will continue to encourage me throughout my college experience. I will always trust in the Lord and keep Him first in my life. I will attend the University of Oklahoma in the Fall as a Biomedical Engineering major. I hope to make you proud! Thank you again for all you have done for me!

Malcolm Williams

Dr. M.L. Jemison

I appreciate all you do for us. You're such a Blessing. God Bless you and St. John. Please continue to pray for me. I will be returning back to church soon. There's nothing like being in the house of the Lord!

Sharon K. Washington-King

Dear St. John Family,

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Reverends Jemison, Miles, Dawson and Wade; and the Women's Mission Union for the phone calls, prayers and condolences. Your love and caring made the loss of our sister easier to bear. You help make St. John the best church this side of judgement.

Yours in Christ, Carolyn & Linda Nero

Dear Pastor Jemison,

Thank you for your words of comfort and your prayers following the passing of our sister, Anna Pots. It encouraged us and strengthened us during our time of grief.

Yours In Christ, Linda & Carolyn Nero

To St. John Family; In Memory of my Sister Willa V. Furch

Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers and acts of kindness. Your love and support will always be remembered. You are appreciated more than you know.

Patricia Powell

Thank you for your kindness, support and comforting words. We gratefully appreciate the cards, flowers and kind expressions of sympathy during this difficult time.

The family of Rev. Delbert R. Spriggs, Evelyn Spriggs

Pastor,

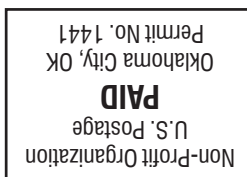
Thank you a beautiful card and it happens after prayer.

Gus Embry

Dear Pastor Jemison, Rev. Dawson and St. John Family,

We deeply appreciate all of your kind expressions of sympathy during the homegoing of our beloved niece Denise Fitzpatrick. Your prayers, calls, cards, and resolution were indeed comforting. Thank you so much.

With sincere gratefulness, John & Mary Robinson and Rose Tucker



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

Reopening Message from Pastor Jemison

Beloved Members,

August has been designated as the date and time we will re-open for regular office hours and auxiliary meetings. Both full time and part time staff will be available between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday. The office will close each Friday at 1pm.

All auxiliaries are asked to start meeting in person at the church in August. To help facilitate a smooth and logistical re-entry, we are asking first that you abide by the procedural requirement of filling out and submitting a building form to the office.

Secondly, to ensure the health and safety of all, we are requesting that you adhere to the COVID safety protocols of face

mask wearing, social distance and hand sanitizing that have been established.

Your cooperation has been outstanding in adhering to these protocols. As a result, we are witnessing a resurgent in church attendance during Sunday service! If we maintain this level of cooperation and collaboration, I am prayerfully optimistic that the weekly experience will be the same.

You are to be commended for all you have done to keep this work afloat. And I want you to know how deeply appreciative I am for your commitment and dedication. Join us as we come back to build back bigger and better than before. "Building Back Better: A Fresh Wind – A Fresh Fire".

