

# The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

February • 2022

(405) 478-3344

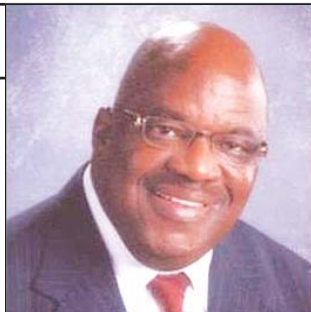
## The Pastor's Pen

*Beloved Members,*

It is my prayer that this letter of encouragement finds you doing well. The month of February is commonly known as the month of Love. During this month we shower accolades and gestures of appreciation on those we love. I want to take personal privilege to salute my wife of 43 years and Your First Lady Jacquie Renee Jemison who will celebrate on the 14th and 18th of this month. **Happy Valentine Day! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

The month of February is also the time when we celebrate our heritage. There is a great deal of excitement being generated around the observance this year. The Black History Committee has planned a tremendous series of events covering a broad spectrum of helpful topics. What a tremendous legacy we have. It is ours to remember and to embrace.

In your leisure read Psalm 107. It is a wonderful account of the **Steadfast Love of God**. Everyone longs for enduring



*Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor*

love. Where can we go to experience this unqualified acceptance? How can we ourselves freely give it? In Christ we can! The Apostle Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). In Christ we find the will, the power and the example to be the manifestation of His steadfast love.

The unqualified love of God is designed for every situation (good, bad or otherwise) we may encounter. There is nothing too severe that genuine bonfire unconditional love cannot conquer.

The hymn writer put it best, "when nothing else could help, love lifted me".

**HAPPY VALENTINE!**



## St. John Black History Month Celebration 2022

**Theme: BECAUSE OF YOU: I AM**

**Scripture: Philippians 4:13**

*Submitted by Lady Jacquie Renee Jemison, Chairperson*



The Black History Committee will proudly highlight our Services recognizing: How our Past **History Makers** influenced our Present Generation: **History Pace Setters / Trailblazers.**

Every February, our Church membership comes together and Celebrate events, activities and honors, "Black History Month". But, once again this year's event will be limited and mostly held virtually to keeping us all safer, while practicing Social Distancing during this World Wide Pandemic. While we would absolutely love to hold our Annual In-person famous Soul Food Dinner with you, but, we instead will meet you at several virtual spaces for some events and activities as we continue to exercise caution during this time.

Weekly Details for each event and activity will be shared for your participation and view-

ing. Here are just a few things to look forward to as we go forth. We will be honoring this year....

- 2nd Sunday: Ms. Tashella Sheri-Amore Dickerson, Black Lives Matters
- 3rd Sunday: Ms. Grace E. (Dana) Franklin; Artists for Justice Oklahoma
- 4th Sunday: Mrs. Juanita Winrow Davis, Oklahoma City Community Servant and Mrs. Mary Matilda Factory, Known for working for NASA and Movie Hidden Figures.

Our continuous events are:

- 1st Sunday, Please wear Black History Month Colors to represent this Month. Red, Green and Black.
- 2nd Sunday: Healthy Heart Day, (wear Red attire)
- 3rd Sunday: Children and Youth Day, (wear your African Attire)

*("St. John Black History" continued on page 2)*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

# How important is baptism?

Water baptism is a somewhat controversial subject. In fact, differences over baptism have led to the inception of new denominations. There have been questions about the subjects of baptism, the act itself, and the purpose of baptism. I want to address three areas in answering the question, how important is baptism?

### The subjects of baptism.

Before one is baptized, one must believe, repent, and confess Christ's deity (Mk. 16: 16, Acts 2: 38, Rom. 10: 9-10, Acts 8: 36-37). One must also have sin to be forgiven (Acts 2: 38).

There is also the necessity for some understanding of sin, God, and his word (cf. Acts 8: 26-40).

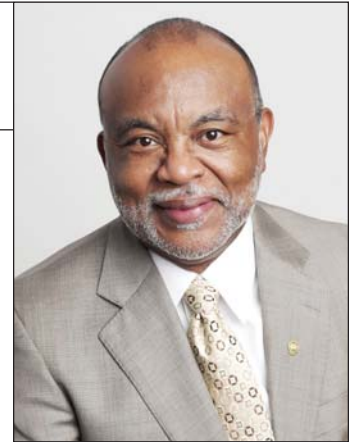
It is not surprising, therefore, to read: "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women" (Acts 5: 14, no babies). Though

we cheer when children are baptized, we must remember it is "believers' baptism." I for one as director of Christian education am saddened by the number of young people who get baptized and never grow in their faith. Years ago, the thought was if you were not baptized you could not participate in any church activity. This set the tone for a false understanding of baptism. The false notion of, if you were nearing 12 years of age you needed to get baptized. There is nowhere in the Bible that says baptism should be done before a certain age! Whatever age a person comes to Christ "believing" is the acceptable age! It is up to the church to teach children what baptism is all about. A child with no understanding of baptism will see the baptism event as nothing more than a "a cool dip in the

pool", and what kid would not pass up that opportunity?

**The act of baptism.** Is baptism sprinkling, pouring, or immersion? Baptism (the Greek noun *baptisma*) means, "consisting of the processes of immersion, submersion and emergence" (W.E. Vine, Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words). Baptism is a burial (Rom. 6: 4, Col. 2:12). Only immersion (burial) symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord (Rom. 6) We as members of St. John "Baptist" church believe in full immersion, Matthew 3:16 indicates Jesus after his baptism came "Straight up" out of the water! I might add also that baptism is the first step to obedience in following the Lord Jesus Christ!

**The purpose of water baptism.** Baptism, when preceded by faith, repentance, and con-



fession, is for or unto the remission of sin (Acts 2: 38, 22: 16).

It is in the act of baptism that Jesus' blood is spiritually contacted (Matt. 26: 28, see "for the remission of sin," compare with Acts 2: 38). Baptism places one in Christ where salvation and all spiritual blessings are found (Gal. 3: 26-27, same as "added to the Lord," Acts 5: 14, Eph. 1: 3-6). Baptism is the official putting off the old man and putting on the new man (Rom. 6).

Have you been scripturally baptized? Many have been baptized not knowing the true meaning of baptism, we here at St John want to educate you on what it means to be baptized! If you have questions, please contact me (405) 478-3344. Be encouraged!

(*"St. John Black History" continued from page 1*)

- 4th Sunday: Special Guest Speaker: Pastor Larry T. Crudup of Oklahoma City
- Langston University Choir, Praise Dancer Samyra. (please wear your Collegiate attire and represent your HBCU.

Special Displays will be featured throughout the Sanctuary, Foyer and Hallways to Honor BH Month. If you drop your names in our BH Month boxes provided during the Month, on the 3rd Sunday after service, we will draw and contact 4 winners for two Soul Food dinners for you to pick-up on the 4th Sunday. Only names in the boxes will be eligible and please enter only once. Winners must come and pick up dinner on the 4th Sunday. The Youth Dept. under the leadership of Rev. and

Mrs. Keith Carter will be contacting the Youth about the Writing ESSAY Contest with Prizes.

Prayerfully, if counts are lower, we will present an In-house Black History Movie Night on February 18th or the 19th, 2022 with lots of social distancing. During that time, we will also Present the Naming of the St. John Gym for history to: The C. H. Ransom Exercise and Health Center. More on this later but what a great contributor he was to St. John and the programing of the Gym.

Tuesday February 22nd, 2022, BH Committee will feature and recognize African American New Book Writers and Poets. This will be on Facebook Live starting at

6:30pm. Panel led my Sister Flossie Thurston and Sister Mae Burge. This is a one hour program. Please join in along with your family and friends and meet our new writers, some are St. John members and how to support and maybe purchase their books.

Finally, ANNOUNCEMENT: We will have available on the 1st Sunday a Handout BH Calendar and will also be available on St. John's Webpage.

Until we all gather together again, remember to wear your special masks, wash your hands and practice social distancing.

God Bless,  
Lady Jacquie Renee Jemison,  
Chair  
Lorie Stephen, Co-Chair



You Tell  
Us ...  
We Tell  
Them.



## EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister



# Evangelism Ministry Update!

## LIVING THE “WIDOW’S MITES” AND THE “TWO FISHES AND FIVE LOAVES”

**MARK 6:41, 43** “And when he had taken the five loaves and two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them and the two fishes divided he among them all...And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments, and of the fishes.”

**LUKE 21:4 (WIDOW’S OFFERING)** “For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury has cast in all the living that she had”.

In March and April of 2021, Dr. Major L. Jemison envisioned having a “clothing pantry”. It was a vision and a spiritual nudging and many thought it should not happen at St. John. Reverend Cornelius D. Wade was offered the vision as another way to live out the Evangelism and Prison Ministries. There were not clothes and no place identified to house them. How the clothing pantry would materialize was anything but clear. Reverend Wade prayed about it and the Lord seemed to be silent and Reverend Wade was preparing to say “no way” too, because God seemed to be saying “no” in the silence.

**OUT OF NOWHERE, A CALL CAME FROM A WIDOW (B.B.)**, offering Reverend Wade and St. John her husband’s clothes. When Reverend Wade got her call and her offer, he laughed. She probably thought he was a little crazy. It was in fact the answer to the question of whether St. John should do a “clothing pantry”. Reverend Wade accepted the clothes and stored them in his garage until he could get an answer on where they would be at the Church. Finally, it was decided the garage would be the home for the “clothing pantry” **“HAND ME UP(S)”**.

**NO MAN IS AN ISLAND** and so, prayers went up to ask who should help with this new vision. **THREE WOMEN CAME TO MIND DURING THIS PRAYER TIME**, J.R., S.J.T., and F.G. There were others, but these three said yes to the vision. A call went out in April and the first **“HAND ME UP(S)”** give away was held in May. Like the 2 fishes and five loaves, the clothes seem to multiply. Reverend W.M. made a call to Deacon L. in Texas and Deacon L. brought a station wagon full of

clothes to Oklahoma City. By June, we had enough clothing to old a major clothing give away at McGuire Plaza. The vision for McGuire Plaza came from R.V. In amazement, Reverend Wade and the team watched as the vision became a reality. By December, we had enough clothing to give 18 boxes of clothes to Jesus House and 2 boxes to “Dress For Success”. Just when we thought we’d given everything away, we had another 2 boxes for “Dress For Success”.

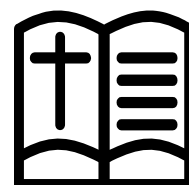
**I (REVEREND C.D. WADE) DON’T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE 2 FISHES AND FIVE LOAVES. I DO KNOW JESUS SAID A PRAYER** and it (a boy’s lunch) was more than enough. I do know that at St. John **AN OBEDIENT WIDOW** gave her gift and it cause a minister to be obedient to **GOD’S CALL**. We put out **A CALL TO THE ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY, AND THE CHURCH FAMILY AN-**

**SWERED THE CALL**. Everyone gave what they had, great and small, it has proven, more than enough, and may have come and left **“filled”**. **MAY WE ANSWER THE CALL IN 2022**. The January 15, 2022 effort had extreme challenges with the frigid temperatures and numbers were low. **WE REMAIN ON TARGET FOR 3RD SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022. WE THANK OUR RECENT DONORS:** Malcolm Stoughtenborough; Dianne McDaniel; Ramona Smith; Harvey Johnson; Oneida Dean-Hardimon; Susan Townsend; Richard, Theresa and Elijah Perkins. **WE THANK OUR TEAM, WHO WILL FIGHT TO THE FINISH/ YOU’RE THE BEST:** Judy Rackett, Shirlee Tomlin, Francis Grayson, Dianne Wright, Denise Blakely. **ADD TO OUR ANGEL TREE SPONSORS:** Dr. Ardrea Smith. **AGAIN, THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2021 ANGEL TREE SPONSORS.**



## PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton



# The Secret of the Lord

*“When you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father secretly. Then your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you.” Matthew 6:6*

Christ greatly desired that His disciples would know God as their Father and that they would have secret fellowship with Him. In His own life, He found it not only indispensable but the highest happiness to meet the Father in secret. We must realize that it is impossible to be a true, wholehearted disciple without daily fellowship with our heavenly Father, who waits for us in secret.

God is a God who hides Himself from the world and all that is of the world. God draws us away from the world and from ourselves. He offers us, instead, the pleasure of close, intimate communication with Himself.

Believers in the Old Testament enjoyed

this experience. How much more should Christians in the new covenant value this secret fellowship with God. We read: “For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). If we really believe this we will have the joyful assurance that our life is safe and beyond the reach of every enemy.

We should day by day confidently seek the renewal of our spiritual life in prayer to our Father, who is secret. As the roots of a tree are hidden under the earth, so the roots of our daily life are hidden deep in God. Our first thought in prayer should be: I must know that I am alone with God and that God is with me.

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!! Praying God's choice blessings upon each of you.

It's Black History Month... it's that time again when we celebrate the contribution African Americans have made across the country. We look forward to seeing the many tributes to African Americans, and hearing the black history stories and facts that will be brought forth this month.

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.

The work of the Parish Fellowship is going nicely. As an ongoing endeavor to maintain a database that is fresh and current, we are asking all members who have moved or changed their contact information in any way to reach out to the church to update your information. It's important that we have your correct address, phone numbers, email address, etc. You can go directly to our website at [www.stjohnokc.org](http://www.stjohnokc.org); you may email me at [djohnson@stjohnokc.org](mailto:djohnson@stjohnokc.org) or you may call the church office and provide your updated information to office staff.

Please continue to be in prayer for those on the sick and shut-in list. I want to commend you for how you love on and care for our members in bereavement, sickness and surgeries. We are our brothers keep-

ers indeed. Also, 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!!



CONNECT will resume on February 9th from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Our special guest will be Valentia Doolin, representative from the Oklahoma Housing Finance Authority (OHFA). Mrs. Doolin will provide information of a HUD to help homeowners with mortgage assistance payments. Yes, money now exist to help homeowners catch up on their delinquent mortgage papers. You don't want to miss this most informative CONNECT session. Be listening to announcements for details. Zoom ID and Password never changes....it is: 245 333 9136 / PASSCODE: 830707

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

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

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!!



Ruby Nichols



Mary Robinson

**LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!**



The Oklahoma Homeowner Assistance Fund provides financial assistance to homeowners who have experienced a significant loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ABOUT THE OKLAHOMA HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND

With the guidance of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency launched the Oklahoma Homeowner Assistance Fund on January 10, 2022. Made available through the American Rescue Plan Act, the HAF program provides financial assistance to homeowners who have experienced a significant loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Homeowners may apply for up to a \$20,000 HAF grant**

### Eligible Uses of HAF Grants

Housing obligations as listed below and not incurred/billed prior to January 21, 2020 are eligible uses of HAF program proceeds:

- Delinquent first and second mortgage principal and interest (P&I)
- Delinquent property taxes
- Escrow shortage
- Homeowner and condominium association fees
- Homeowner hazard, flood and mortgage insurance
- Reasonable lender-assessed fees
- Up to three additional P&I payment after mortgage default is cured
- Past due loan payments to government or nonprofit entities for down payment assistance

Visit [ohfa.org/haf](http://ohfa.org/haf) for more information.



Updated 1/1/21

## Frankly Speaking

By Patricia T. Brewer, Luella Dunn Children's Department Minister

Last month through our Zoom lessons we focused on Putting on the Whole Armour of God. To all the children here is a review. **Ephesians 6:10-18**

How many of you have watched a Major League Baseball game? What are some of the equipment that baseball or softball players need?

**One player on the team—the catcher—has some very special equipment.** The catcher is in a very dangerous spot right behind the batter and needs certain equipment for protection.

**The mask** protects the catcher's face from foul tips or pitches that might get past the glove.

**The glove** protects the hand from balls.

**The chest protector** protects the middle part of the body.

Finally, the catcher wears



shin guards to protect the knees and legs.

**No catcher** would ever think of going into the game without this protective equipment.

The Bible teaches us that you and I need protection in our lives, too. The Bible calls it the armor of God, which protects us from Satan's evil plans to hurt us. What kind of protection does the Bible say that we need? Let's go through each piece to-

gether:

**The belt of truth:** The Bible tells us that God's enemy, Satan, is the "father of lies," but Satan can never win if we will hold onto the truth that Jesus is Lord.

**The breastplate of righteousness:** Satan can never harm us when we choose to do what God says is right.

**Feet fitted with the gospel of peace:** Satan tries to create worry and confusion in our lives, but knowing Jesus brings peace.

**The shield of faith:** Satan will try to plant seeds of doubt in our hearts and minds, but those seeds of doubt can never take root if we have faith in Jesus.

**The helmet of salvation:** Jesus came from heaven to earth to save us from the evil one. If



we choose to follow Jesus, we will win the battle against Satan.

**The sword of the Spirit:** The Bible, God's holy Word, is a powerful weapon against Satan.

Just as a catcher needs protective equipment, Christians need all the protection God has given us. Remember, Satan cannot harm us when we put on the "full armor of God."

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank You for the protection that You have given us against the evils of this world and Satan's plans to harm us. Help us to always remember to put on every piece of your armor. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny Emery, WMU President

### Happy February!

*We are blessed and fortunate to see another month of this new year, 2022!*

The WMU has had a wonderful mission-filled January and we have hit the ground running in this new month. Each month, we meet on a Zoom Call. At our January monthly meeting, we had over 40 ladies in attendance with Circle OHJ, led by First Lady Jacquie Jemison leading our devotional period. Circle OHJ did an outstanding job. We also appreciate our other faithful attendees and WMU members. We had a great time in the Lord!

The St. John WMU Circles have been led by some phenomenal women and we want to take this opportunity to say "THANK YOU" to Sis. Cleo Perry. Sis. Perry has led Circle #10 for several years and has decided to step down as a Chairperson, BUT she will continue to support and contribute her time, talents, and treasure to the on-going work of the WMU. We plan to recognize Sis. Cleo Perry properly in the coming months. We also remember Sis. Geri Pero, who served Circle #8 faithfully for many years. Circle #8 and Circle #10 have now been combined to form Circle #4, which has been renamed Jewel Pendleton Davis(JPD).

The St. John WMU is excited to welcome three new WMU Executive Committee members. Sis. Kimberly Tomlin, a life-long

member of St. John and a dedicated worker within the WMU will join the team as 2nd Vice President. Sis. Tomlin will focus on team-building and strengthening the programs of the WMU. We would also like to welcome Sis. Evelyn Spriggs and Sister Susan Townsend who will serve as Co-Chairpersons of Circle #4(JPD). These two ladies have shared that they look forward to working with their assigned Circle members AND they appreciate the opportunity to work in this capacity.

Lastly, we want to share our plans for the month of February. The St. John WMU will send Valentine Day greetings to ALL of our sick and shut-in members. We will also share love with several local ministries. We have an abundance of socks that were donated this past December. We asked the ladies of the WMU for suggestions of ministries that could benefit from our sock donation. Our WMU sisters did not disappoint. We look forward to reporting to you next month about our sock donation. Thank you, St. John for ALWAYS supporting the St. John WMU. We truly appreciate you!



# Bowling News



We hope you had a blessed holiday season, Due to the pandemic the St. John A. J. Dean stopped bowling in 2020. However, we returned to bowling on September 11, 2022, at the Holiday Lanes Bowling Center, 44 SE 44th Street at 5pm. We returned with four teams and did so because many of the returnees have bowled with the league for several years and wanted to return. The bowlers' range in age from 19 to 90. We are in our 15th week of bowling and team standings are:

•**1st Place** – So Hated (Wayne Bettles\*, Jahmar Ivory, Duane Rogers, Willeva and Dre Reed\*)

•**2nd Place** – CBD Squad (Terrell Brooks, Daisy and Cayla Looney\*)

•**3rd Place** – Just Bad (Al Cooper, Diana, Deland and DeSota Bell)

•**4th Place** – Amazing 4 (Booker Washington, Sky Young\*, Robert Bogan and Kevin Smith)

\*New members to the league

Individual standings are:

**Men Scratch Series**

Jahmar Ivory	730
Kevin Smith	611
Terrell Brooks	407

**Men Scratch Game**

Dre Reed	242
DeSota Bell	198
Booker Washington	198

**Men Handicap Series**

Deland Bell	652
Robert Bogan	637

**Men Handicap Game**

Wayne Bettles	257
Al Cooper	243

**Women Scratch Series**

Daisy Looney	549
Willeva Reed	459

**Women Scratch Game**

Sky Young	193
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**Women Handicap Series**

Cayla Looney	635
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**Women Handicap Game**

Diana Bell	247
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The league high average is Daisy Looney with a 163 and Jahmar Ivory with a 186. If you have some free time on Saturday evenings, you might want to come out and watch us enjoying the fellowship with each other.



## February Anniversaries

Preston, Isaiah & Donetta  
February 7, 1978 — 44 years

Jones, Larry & Joyce  
February 11, 1971 — 51 years

Helaire, Ernest & Valerie  
February 14, 1981 — 41 years

Johnson, Clinton & Vernetta  
February 15, 1975 — 47 years

Payton Sr.,  
Raymond & Mildred  
February 18, 1984 — 38 years

Perkins, Richard & Theresa  
February 21, 1982 — 40 years

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



Submitted By Rev. Marcus Carruthers

## Digital Ministry: More about culture than computers

We don't need to be power-users of every new digital technology. We don't need to be early adopters, nor do we need to devote considerable energy to the work of digital media. But as church leaders, we do need to be attuned to our broader digital culture.

All of us are part of a broad, tech-shaped culture that conditions us to think, learn, and act in ways that are rather different from the time before the rise of smartphones, high-speed internet and the pandemic. As church leaders tasked with setting mission and vision, our leadership always intersects with this surrounding tech-shaped culture. Our goal shouldn't be to adopt every new technology. Our goal should be to study digital culture to find areas of overlap with our mission and vision. Ministries aligned to digital culture need not be digitally sophisticated. They simply need to be aware of some core values that all of us share in common.

•**The Core Values of Tech-Shaped Culture**

With this goal in mind, here is what we mean when we talk about tech-shaped culture: Fundamentally, to understand tech-shaped culture is to understand how and when widespread digital technologies influence the meaning-making process. To know something of tech-shaped culture is to know that digital tools are changing meaning-making by facilitating the asking of questions, by forging new types of connection, by encouraging collaboration, and by making space for creativity.

•**Cultural Value 1: Questions**

Perhaps the most direct way that digital technology influences our culture is through questions. You can think of major technologies like Google, Siri, and even Netflix as tools that invite our questions and provide us with many possible answers. In the digital age, we expect opportunities to learn and grow through questions. This expectation extends into our spiritual life, where we expect to find God through reflection, introspection, and questioning. Whether online or offline, it is our responsibility to create a space for our communities to engage their questions and to sift through answers, even if those questions don't directly pertain to "churchy" topics.

•**Cultural Value 2: Connection**

Digital technology influences connection by turning everything into a hybrid experience, a blend of offline and online. Tools like Zoom, WhatsApp, and Facebook Live continue to blur the line between online and offline. As participants in tech-shaped

(“Digital 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, Kenneth Washington*  
*A blessed service, rendered by the church*

**WEST TO WESTERN**      **EAST TO BRYANT**

**SOUTH TO FIRST STREET**

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 • Lamonica 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 & St. John Family,*

Sisters Cecille Miles and Rita Watson, along with their families Shanna Wilson and family; Tiffany and Shawn Miles, and Jessica James would like to thank everyone who prayed, called, sent cards, money, food and condolences during this time of bereavement of our oldest brother (and uncle) Gerald (Jerry) James. We would especially like to thank and acknowledge Pastor Jemison, Vernetta Johnson, Rev. Dawson and Rev Carruthers for their fervent prayers, compassion flexibility and willingness to help.

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*St. John,*

A special thank you to Rev Dawson, Rev Carruthers and Sis Mae Burge for services rendered during the home going service for our 108 year old Aunt, Roberta Jackson. Please keep the family in prayer.

*Sis. Sandra Wallace & Bro Willert Wallace*

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*St. John Family,*

I'd like to personally thank Pastor Jemison, Rev. Dawson and the prayer team, and everyone that prayed for me during my hospitalization and now my recuperation. Your calls, texts, cards, and prayers are really appreciated. God Bless you all!

*Veola Bray*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Pastor Jemison & St. John Family,*

Thank you all for your prayers, calls, gifts and support. It warmed our hearts knowing that the Church was available to guide and comfort us as we grieved the loss of our mother/sister, Mrs. LaVelma Stell-Denson. When you see one of us smile, for we are truly a joyful family, even in our sorrow. Continue to pray for us as we will for you. God Bless

*The Denson's, Burdine's and Patrick's*

\*\*\*\*\*

*To Pastor Jemison & My St. John Church Family:*

Thank you for your prayers, the many expressions of kindness and condolences extended to me upon the passing of my brother Walter Gaylord Montgomery. I am grateful to have such a supportive St. John Family.

*Love, Mary Carey*

*(“Digital Ministry” continued from page 6)*

culture, we expect to integrate the physical and the virtual, especially through church. As church leaders, our task is to make connections easy for our community and to ensure all connections have shared online and offline expressions.

### Cultural Value 3: Collaboration

Online tools like Google Docs and Slack create seamless opportunities for multiple people to make meaningful contributions. Real-time collaborative software flattens hierarchies and invites us all to join in collaborative conversation, work, and learning. As church leaders, we are called to make our ministries increasingly collaborative, within our congregations and throughout the broader community.

We don't need to be sophisticated users of technology; sometimes we may not need much technology at all. As church leaders, we simply need to notice these values in action and to determine how they align to God's work in our Christian community.

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# SUNDAY MORNING Health Corner

## The Omicron Variant: Stay Safe During the Holiday Season

As our world continues to face unprecedented circumstances, the holidays remain a time for us to joyfully connect with family, friends, and our faith community. Here are a few details about the Omicron variant and tips to help you lead the efforts in your community to keep everyone safe this holiday season.

### What is the Omicron Variant?

The Omicron variant is a strain of SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19. It's likely that this variant will spread more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus, yet how easily Omicron spreads compared to the Delta variant currently remains unknown. Scientific data suggests that those not vaccinated are most at risk. However, vaccinated people remain at risk of breakthrough infection and spreading the virus to others.

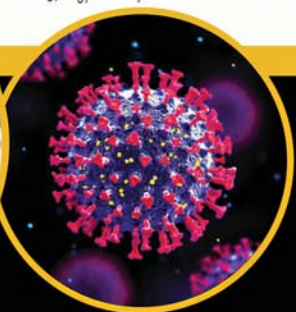
### What can you do to help protect yourself and others?

**Get vaccinated.** COVID-19 vaccines and boosters can help protect you from severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) to find a location near you offering COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.

**Wear a mask.** Stop the spread by wearing a mask in indoor public settings and high traffic areas to protect yourself and others.

**Test to prevent spread.** Consider testing before joining indoor gatherings this holiday season. There are multiple types of tests to choose from, including over-the-counter self tests.

**Wash your hands.** Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap. If soap is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



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