

The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

May • 2021

478-3344

The Pastor's Pen



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

Beloved Members,

Trust this message finds you and family well and in good health and spirits. As MOTHER'S Day approaches, wishing for all mothers, past and present, a wonderful day of celebration!

We have come through the challenges of COVID-19 with great resilience. The Lord has enabled us to remain a solvent body amidst the stress and strain of this peculiar time. Now that we can see daylight at the end of the struggle, it is time for us to refocus and once again commit ourselves to the "advancement of this the Lord's Church; in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to sustain its worship; to promote its prosperity and spirituality.

We reopened the church for in-person worship on the first Sunday in April. You need to know the response has been admirable and quite successful. I

want to encourage you to make coming to church apart of your weekly agenda...again. You no longer have to be afraid of the climate or conditions. CDC protocols are being observed. The full compliment of our ministry is on sight to assist with any needs. The facility will probably be the safest place you can attend! There is no need to be hesitant or apprehensive.

We will continue to broadcast morning worship via social media. However, there is no substitute for the blessing of being in fellowship with one another. I am waiting on you! Looking forward indeed to seeing you and your families.

My Prayers Remain,
Pastor

"Women, Mothers, Answering the Call to Serve" 2021 Annual Deaconess Day

Submitted by the Combined Deaconess Ministry

On May 9, 2021 the Combined Deaconess Ministry of St. John Missionary Baptist Church celebrates Annual Deaconess Day. A spirit filled worship service is anticipated to include the dedication of children added to St. John families within the past year, awards to the '2021 Mother of the Year Essay Contest' winners, presentation of the 'Mildred Fish Scholarship' to P-31 youth group graduates, recognition of outstanding service, tribute to deceased Deaconess and a dynamic message from St. John Associate Minister, Dr. Ardrea Lambeth Smith, Ed.D.

The 2021 Deaconess Program Planning committee reflected on the challenges experienced by everyone since the last Annual Day. Recognizing the sacrifices made by mothers and women, within St. John, the community, Oklahoma, and the United States, in managing families, working full or part time, while still taking on tasks of education, health care, doing what they could as moms and women to keep their families safe and grounded in the Lord, and fighting for and supporting social change, we determined that this year, perhaps more than any other, women and mothers have answered the call to serve, thus the theme "Women, Mothers,



Dr. Ardrea Lambeth Smith

Answering the Call to Serve". The worship service will center on this theme and the focus scripture found in Luke 1:38a.

Our speaker, Associate Minister Dr. Ardrea Lambeth Smith made St. John her church home in 2017. Since becoming a part of the St. John family she has exemplified service in her work as a member of the adult choir and praise team, volunteer with Fusion Ministry in the food bank, Wednesday noon day prayer and meditations, Women's Missionary Union, and as a Johnson Memorial Bible Institute faculty. She has additionally participated with St. John as a part of the National Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education Choir and the Gospel Music Workshop of OKC.

*("Deaconess Day"
continued on page 2)*

Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 9, 2021

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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



“What actually is the gospel?”

The astute listener can observe many different definitions given to the gospel by different religionists. The Greek word for gospel is defined as, “..good news” (W.E. Vine). Certainly, the gospel announces good news: summed up in God’s love as shown in the giving of his Son and man’s opportunity to enjoy the salvation in Christ (John 3: 16). However, as the student considers the expanded meaning of “gospel,” I believe they will agree with the restorer

Walter Scott who said, “the gospel consists of facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed, and promises to be anticipated.”

Facts to be believed. The essential facts to be believed are found in 1 Corinthians 15: 1-4. Paul said, “Jesus died for our sins...was buried...and arose again the third day...” Hence, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Commands to be obeyed. The fact that the gospel must be “obeyed” is indicative of the fact

that the gospel contains essential commands. Belief is a command (Acts 2: 36). Repentance and baptism are also commands (Acts 2: 38, 10: 48). The Christian is commanded to grow and increase in knowledge (2 Pet. 3:18, 1: 5-10). Christians are commanded to be steadfast and productive (1 Cor. 15:58, Col. 1:10).

Promises to be anticipated. The remission of sin and the gift of the Holy Spirit is a promise anticipated by those not yet Christians (Acts 2: 14-47). God has promised to provide an escape with each temptation faced by the Christian (1 Cor.10: 13).

God has promised to forgive all sins which the Christian will confess (1 John 1: 7-9). The ultimate promise is eternal life (Tit. 1: 1,2).

What is your view of the gospel? We here at St. John urge you to receive the gospel in its original purity and fullness (Gal. 1: 6-9).

(“Deaconess Day” continued from page 1)

Dr. Lambeth Smith’s ministry experience and servant history includes student Chapel Speaker at the Perfecting Faith Bible Institute, a summer youth counselor at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and studied at the New York Theological Seminary. Her favorite scripture is Ephesians 1:6. She desires to see people grow spiritually and aspires to earn a Doctorate in Ministry.

Born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, Minister Lamberth Smith attended school in the Oklahoma City Public Schools System; graduating from Nicoma Park-Choctaw Public School District, Choctaw, Oklahoma,. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education at the University of Central Oklahoma. She has Masters Degrees from Oklahoma State University and the Wimberly School of Religion at Oklahoma City University. She obtained a Doctorate of Education at Nova Southeastern University at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Her quest for knowledge, personal growth, and development has given her an enthusi-

asm for learning and led her to become a self-proclaimed “Academic”. She has a passion for the study of international affairs and foreign languages and has studied abroad in Israel. She loves hanging out in book stores.

Her educational certifications include Oklahoma Superintendent Secondary School Principal, K-12 Spanish, Secondary Education English Language Arts and Spanish, and as a New York State District Administrator and Administrator Supervisor. She has numerous awards and other recognitions. Currently Dr. Lambeth Smith teaches Spanish at Douglass Senior High school in Oklahoma City. In her spare time she enjoys cross word puzzles, watching golf and dabbling in fashion specifically clothing design and construction.

Dr. Lambeth Smith is the proud mother of four sons. She has one daughter-in-love and four grandsons.

The Combined Deaconess Ministry is honored and delighted to have St. John Associate Minister Dr. Ardrea Lambeth Smith, Ed.D as our Annual Day Speaker.



May Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|--|
| Perry, Tamique
May 1, 1993 — 28 years | White, Robert
May 17, 1980 — 41 years |
| Shepherd, Charles & Jerri
May 1, 1981 — 40 years | Willis, Brade & Jenail
May 19, 1990 — 31 years |
| Brown, Denae
May 3, 2014 — 7 years | Deloach, Eugene & Tiesha
May 23, 2015 — 6 years |
| Taylor, Iowana
May 11, 1999 — 22 years | Walker Jr., Theodore & Carole
May 25, 1965 — 56 years |

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

Frankly Speaking

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

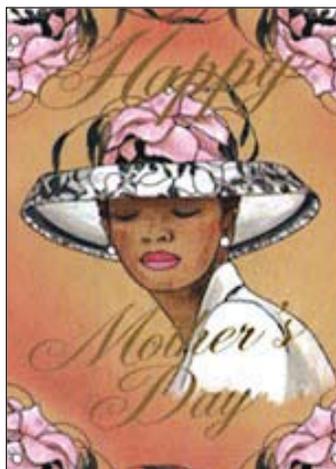
Message Subject: "Show Your Love by Your Actions"

Scripture:

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 John 4:9-11, 21 (NIV)

I am sure that all of you know that Mother's Day is/was Sunday May 9, 2021. Did you give your mother a card or a present for Mother's Day? Do you think your mother likes to hear you tell her that you love her? Of course she does! But do you know what your mother would like even more? She would like for you to show her that you love her.

What are some ways you can show your mother that you love her? Well, you might help out around the house. You could clean your room or empty the trash. You could show her that you love her by obeying her



when she tells you to do something. You can show her you love

her by getting along with your brothers and sisters. It is easy to tell your mom that you love her, but if you really love her, your actions will show it!

Do you think that God likes to hear us tell Him that we love Him? I know He does. But He likes it even better when our actions show Him that we love Him. How do we do that? The Bible tells us that, "God showed his love for us by sending His one and only Son so that we might live through him." It goes on to say that, "since God loved us so much, we ought to love one another." One of the best ways to show our love for God

is to love one another. Yes, God likes to hear us say, "I love you," but He would rather see us say, "I love you."

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let's tell Mom that we love her, but more important, let's remember to show her that we love her every day. And as you worship, let's tell God we love him, but more important, let's remember to show him we love him by loving one another.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we have come to your house today to say, "I love you." Help us to go out of here today and show you that we love you by our actions. Amen.



WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny Emery, WMU President

The St. John Women's Missionary Union says: "Happy Mother's Day!"

We thank God for our Mothers, whether here on Earth or already in Heaven.

We thank God for our Benevolence Chairperson, Sis. Wanzetta Woody, who works with me to diligently send out Mother's Day cards. Sis. Woody is the person in our WMU who excellently sends cards on ALL holidays and endeavors to send

cards on behalf of the WMU to the sick and shut-in as well as the bereaved.

I am indebted to Sis. Woody and I am grateful that she serves in this capacity as part of the leadership of the St. John WMU.

In the month of April, the WMU sent Easter greetings to our sick and shut-in members. We also finished our study of "Makeovers With Leftovers." Hearts have been touched and lives changed through this amaz-

ing, healing book. Our last three presenters: Sis. Debra Johnson, Sis. Kim Tomlin, and Rev. Betty Winters did a fantastic job presenting the last chapters of the book.

Our next book review will be presented by Circle #2. Please stay alert for details from Sis. Gerchel Holbert – 1st Vice-President and Circle #2 Chairperson.

Thank you to the women of the St. John WMU. They have

continued to send cards, make phone calls, and drop off food when needed. Thank you to our Circle Chairpersons. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

We are still collecting WMU dues. If you would like to support the mission of the St. John WMU, please see our Treasurer, Sis. Patricia Brewer. Our dues are \$24/year.

Thank you for your continued support!

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator



Greetings to all!! I pray you and your families are doing well and staying safe.

Well, we've been having CONNECT VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP since February and it's been GREAT!! We've had anywhere from 28 to 40 people on the Zoom fellowship call. Each Connect session we see members we've not seen the previous session. Through use of breakrooms, we arranged for Pastor Jemison to greet all members on the call. It's been a SPECTACULAR TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!! I want to thank Sis. Cynthia Knight and Sis. Mary Robinson for facilitating the group breakout rooms.



CONNECT is for the entire membership of the church ...young and old. Your next opportunity to "join the fellowship" is Wednesday, May 19th @ 7:30 p.m. Topic of discussion will be "The Affects of the Tulsa Race Massacre 100 Years Later. Zoom call information is provided as follows: MEETING ID: 245 333 9136 / PASSCODE: 830707

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



Sis. Flora Herbison

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAY MEMBERS!!

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

Let's give a birthday "shout-out to Sis. Flora Herbison (Birthday May 23rd). Thank you Sis. Flora for all you do.

LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!

FEMA ANNOUNCEMENT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will soon begin reimbursing Americans for funeral expenses of family members who passed away due to COVID-19.

Congress passed the \$2 billion funding in December as part of a \$900 billion stimulus bill. The funding was promoted by Senator Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and

\$260 million will be allocated to their home state of New York, which was hit hard by the pandemic last year. The two representatives want to keep the program in place for the rest of the pandemic.

Families can be reimbursed up to \$7,000 for funeral expenses, retroactive to Jan. 20, 2020. Those who apply will need to submit identifying documentation of the person who died, as well as a death certificate. According to the National Funeral Directors Association <<https://nfd.org/news/statistics>>, the national median cost for a funeral in 2019, including viewing and burial, was \$7,640.

Ocasio-Cortez said <<https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/08/politics/schumer-aoc-funeral-covid-funds/index.html>> her family struggled with funeral funds for her father when she was 18 years old, saying the expenses "haunted and followed my family, along with many other families in a similar position, for years."



PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton

God The Father

"Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

It is important to realize that the doctrine of the Holy Trinity has a deep devotional aspect. As we think of God, we remember that inconceivable distance that separates Him in His holiness from sinful humans, and we bow in deep contrition and holy fear. As we think of Christ the Son, we remember the inconceivable nearness in which He came to be born of a woman and to die the accursed death and so to be inseparably joined to us for all eternity. And as we think of the Holy Spirit, we remember the inconceivable blessedness of God dwelling in us and making us His home and His temple throughout eternity.

When Christ taught us to say "Our Father in heaven," He immediately added you're your

name be honored" (Matthew 6:9). As God is holy, so also are we to be holy. And there is no way of becoming holy without considering that name to be most holy and drawing near to Him in prayer.

How often we speak that name without any sense of the unspeakable privilege of our relationship to God. If we would just take time to come into contact with God. If we would just take time to come into contact with God and to worship Him in His Fatherly love, that intimate place of communion would become to us the gate of heaven.

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



St. John Christian Heritage Academy Activities





EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister



PRAYFULLY COMING SOON / ST. JOHN'S CLOTHING PANTRY/ "HAND ME UPS"

WHERE WE ARE STANDING SPIRITUALLY. In Luke's Gospel, we find Luke 3:2b ...the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;.....As John preached, his hearers asked him what should they do. John said in 3:11 "He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him

impart to him that hath none; he that hath meat, let him do like wise".....

And of course Jesus in Matthew 25:35-40 "For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: **NAKED AND YE CLOTHED ME:** I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then the righteous answer him saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry,

and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink: When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? **OR NAKED AND CLOTHED THEE?** Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me**".

WE BELIEVE WE ARE

BEING CALLED TO PROVIDE A "CLOTHING PANTRY/ "HAND ME UPS". Pastor, Dr. M.L. Jemison has asked the Prison and Evangelism Ministries to take the lead in bringing to fruition a "CLOTHING PANTRY /"HAND ME UPS". It is scriptural that we would seek to provide clothing for those with no and those with minimal clothing. In case, we thought it was just another thing to do, we explored the idea with some members, before we could finish formulating plans and thinking about it, we received a donation of clothes. This unsolicited, unexpected, abundant blessing showed up and was accepted. **WE SAW GOD MOVING IN THIS DONATION. THE DONOR DID NOT KNOW THAT WE WERE PLANNING A CLOTHING PANTRY. SO, WE KNOW GOD WAS MOVING.** We are still praying about the specifics.

HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH THE CLOTHING PANTRY? We need volunteers to brainstorm about the specifics, when to distribute, collecting, and storing. We need donations of all types of clothing. Leave Reverend Cornelius David Wade a text to volunteer (405) 464-7914. **VOLUNTEERS TEXT (405) 464-7914.**

PLEASE PLAN TO DONATE. If you have anything you have not worn in the last 3 years, something new and the tags are still on it, you have clothes that are more than one size too small, you have clothes that are clean and gently worn, and need a new home, plan to donate. **LOOK FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT SOON!**

Grounds Beautification

Submitted by Dianne McDaniels



After being absent from church and other church related activities, a new American flag was raised which was donated by Lieutenant Colonel Jeannette Hammond, who is the sister to Loveta and Marjorie Hammond and the aunt to Zoe Hammond. Pastor Jemison and members wish to thank Lieutenant Colonel Hammond for her services to our country and donation to St. John. Special thanks goes out to Sis. Aneesa Sharp for early spring bulbs that were planted by the children of the academy. Lastly, Sister Estraletta Green donated several trees to accent the



Ronald Smith, Loreta Hammond and Marjorie Hammond.
The Flag is dedicated to those who serve God and Country

beauty of the grounds and church. The trees included the Oklahoma Redbud, the dogwood, and a crabapple. We ex-

tend a special thanks to Sis. Estraletta as well. These trees will give the grounds beauty for years to come.

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

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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!

To Pastor Jemison, Associate Ministers and St. John Family:
Thank you so much for the prayers, phone calls, cards and all acts of kindness during the passing of our mother Odessa Thompson.

Ronald Luper and the Family of Odessa Thompson

Thank You Very Much! It was such a thoughtful gesture.
Love, Kathy Simpson

Pastor Jemison, First Lay Jemison, Rev Dawson, Rev. Wade and My Amazing Church Family

Sis. Vernetta Johnson has again blessed our bereaved families across the country when she sends resolutions of love and support from this the Lord's Church. Thanks again from the bottom of our hearts.

Member, Sister Opal Floyd on behalf of our Late Cousin, Magie Lee Alcorn.

Families from CA AR, AZ, IL, MO, T, GA, MN. Thank you, Thank You, Thank You!

Thank You ...and ask the Lord to shower you with His blessings!

From Robinson & Denmark Family

Thank You. The kindness of others is a genuine reflection of the kindness of God.

The Family of the Late Mrs. Idella Finley
Sis. Angela Andrews

To Jemison Family,

So thankful that no matter what life brings, we know the end of the story and it's amazing!! Jesus has won! Hallelujah!! God Bless You Richly

From Alva Jean Ewing & Andrew's Family

Just Want to Thank You...and ask the Lord to shower you with His blessings!

Thank you! We appreciate the prayers and concerns!
Love, Reg, Sherry, Jodi and Jonathan

To my St. John Family

Thank you so very much for all your prayers, calls, cards and gifts of love. I can never say thank you enough...what a blessing to have such a loving family in my time of needs. Blessings to you all and may god continue to bless you all. Thank you so very much. Keep me in your prayers.

Sister Beverly Burch

Thank you Pastor Jemison and St. John Family,

Thank you for expressing God's love in such a thoughtful way.
Kenneth & Maxine Washington

To Pastor Jemison and Lady J and the Black History Committee and Rudie V for the delicious meal that were prepared for me and my family. May God continue to bless everyone.

Rosa Gibson & Family

I've Got This with Jesus

Submitted by Tasha Miles

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) staff is excited to present this year's theme: ***I've Got This with Jesus*** Scripture Focus: *'For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength'* (Philippians 4:13, NLT)

In this verse, Paul expresses that it is because of Christ that he can do anything. He lives for Christ and gives Him praise. Paul serves as our example of how a relationship in Christ gives us the victory and strength in whatever trials or problems we are facing.

The lessons will propel students from average to excellence in every area of their lives, especially spiritual and emotional growth. By demonstrating how true victory originates with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, this curriculum will be instrumental in encouraging believers to achieve unlimited accomplishments with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The whole family will be blessed. Adult classes will be held. Mrs. Jacquie Jemison is preparing a dynamic, interactive class where women will receive God's Word as well as door prizes.

VBS Week Itinerary

Monday, June 7th – Wednesday, June 9th

In person Attendees:

Dinner 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Class Time

Children and Youth 7:00 – 7:45 p.m.

Adult Classes 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Arts & Crafts/Activity 7:45 – 8:00 p.m.

Child Pick-up 8:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Attendees: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

NOTE THE TIME CHANGE FOR DINNER.

Only workers will be allowed in the building before 6:00pm. Thank you for

your cooperation to keep us all safe. Closing Ceremony will not be in person. However, you can check out the Vacation Bible School highlights on St. John Missionary Baptist Church Facebook page.

Pre-registration is open to all. We need your help to ensure we have a successful and safe Vacation Bible School. Visit St. John Missionary Baptist Church website at stjohnokc.org or Facebook page to fill out the online form.

Join the VBS Staff by volunteering your time. If you are unable to volunteer your time, the staff asks for your continued prayers for great weather, an abundance of volunteers, plenty of resources, and souls saved during the VBS week.

If you have any question, contact Tasha Miles 600-8501 or email SJMBCOKC.VBS@gmail.com.

St. John Missionary Baptist Church

Vacation Bible School 2021

**Pre-Registration is NOW
available online**

**We need your help to ensure we have a
successful and safe Vacation Bible School.**

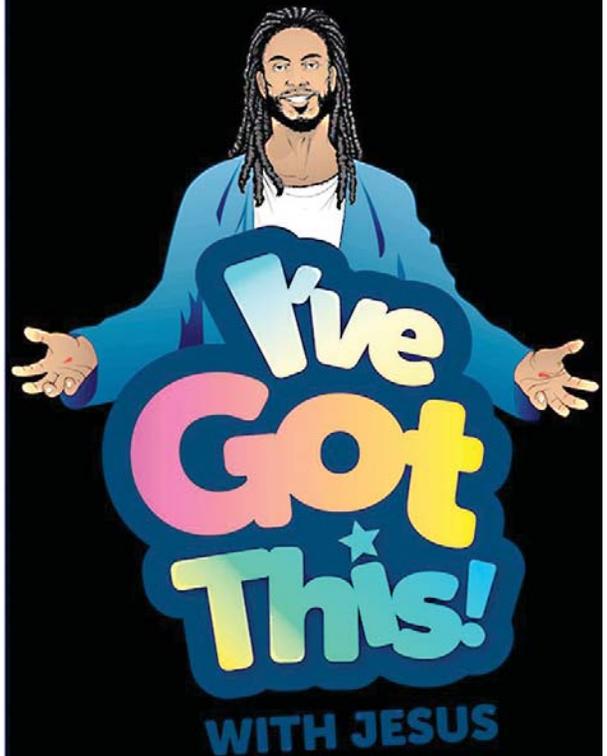
**Let us know if you are joining us 'In
Person or Virtually'**

If you plan to attend, register

NOW until May 16th.

Visit stjohnokc.org or St. John MBC Facebook page

Or visit Church Office to fill out hardcopy registration form



*'For I can do everything through
Christ, who gives me strength'*

Philippians 4:13, NLT