

The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

September • 2021

(405) 478-3344

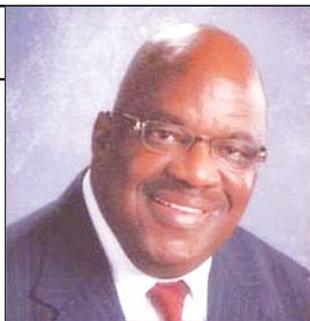
The Pastor's Pen

Beloved Members,

I trust this letter finds you and yours doing well. It is my constant prayer that God's favor grace your life and that you experience the full impact of His presence each and every day.

I am writing to encourage you to make the most of every day. Life is fleeting and each moment lost cannot be regained. Let the rear view mirror of life be one of time wisely invested. I know; sometimes life feels like you're running on a treadmill while someone keeps pushing the button to increase the speed faster and faster. Twenty-four hours never feels like enough. If only we had more time! A couple extra hours a day would make all the difference! Or maybe an extra week to be able to catch up, right? How do I know your thoughts?...because I have the exact same thoughts myself.

The truth is that God can and will accomplish through us what he needs to accomplish in the time available. Our almighty God is the one who came up with 24-hour days after all. If God thinks that's good enough, it is. I love the end of the book of Job when God challenges Job's frustrations and



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

puts him in his place for questioning God: "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. . . . Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place?" (Job 38:4,12). In other words, God is the boss man and he knows what he's doing. We can wish for more time, but we're not going to get it. We can't make our days longer. What we can do is give our best and leave the rest in God's hands. After all, if everything in life depended on us, no amount of hours would ever, ever be enough.

Therefore, do your best with every opportunity provided. Serve the Lord with gladness. Let all of your efforts be laced with joy and enthusiasm. Make this day and the rest the best days of your life. We "*can do all things through Christ who strengthens*" us. (Philippians 4:13)

— *Pastor*

VIP Annual Day

Submitted by Velma Smith



Dr. Lawrence C. Kirk

The Seasoned Saints of St. John will celebrate our Annual Day on Sunday, September 12, 2021. Our speaker is our own Dr. Lawrence Kirk, Director of Christian Education at this the Lord's Church.

The VIP ministry prayerfully strives to enhance the congregation's 60+ year old members' engagement in Church life experiences that undergird Kingdom building. VIPs are encouraged to share their presence, talents and resources to support all ministries in St. John.

Our ministry goal is dedicated to keep our "Seniors on the move." On July 18th, over 43 seasoned saints and friends gathered for an informal get together after church at a local

restaurant to connect and break bread together. We shared good food, with good folks and had some good fun. It was wonderful seeing our loyal VIP and new VIP members in attendance.

Seniors have much to contribute as a result of their long lives and faithful service. Gracefully growing older may change our purpose as we just studied in Sunday School, but we are still working for the Lord and fulfilling His purpose as long as we are here.

The VIPs are very appreciative of St. John's leadership's vision and support for this auxiliary and will continue to encourage seasoned saints to support the ministries of the Church.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

By *study* is meant to set your heart upon—be diligent, hurry, rush, and seek the approval of God. The approval of God is to be the believer’s concern. To be disapproved is to be displeasing and unacceptable to God. How then can we secure the approval of God? By being a workman—the idea is a diligent worker who toils and labors to the “point of exhaustion. But note: our work is pinpointed and identified. We are to study the Word of God and rightly divide it. The words “rightly divide” (orthoto mounta) mean to cut straight. Believers are to cut straight to the truth; they are not to take crooked paths and sidetracks to the truth. We are to study the truth and rightly divide it. Once

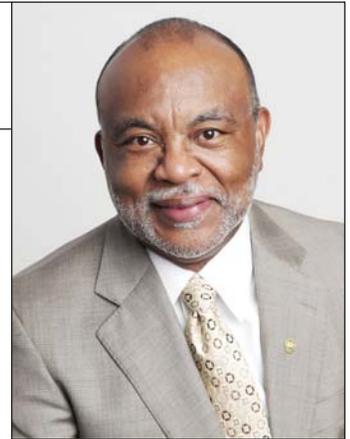
we have “studied and learned the Word of God, we are to accurately teach the Word of God. We “are not to teach...

- our own ideas.
- the theories of other people.
- what we think.
- what other men think.

We are not to mishandle the Word of God: twist it to fit what we think or want it to “say; over-emphasize or under-emphasize its teachings; add to or take away from it. Any “person who mishandles God’s Word is not approved of God. This is the point of this verse: if we want God’s approval—if we want to be acceptable to God—we must study, rush and seek to be a true teacher of God’s Word. We must be *workmen* who study God’s

Word, workmen who study diligently: *who correctly analyze and accurately divide—rightly handle and skillfully teach—the Word of Truth* (Amplified New Testament). This is the believer who will not be ashamed when he faces the Lord Jesus Christ in the great day of judgment.

Will you join me as we study the word of God together? We have provided two systematic virtual platforms for you to study God’s word. Each Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. we have Bible study on Facebook live! On Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. we have our weekly Sunday school lesson. Both of these are recorded, and you can watch at your own time frame. Besides these two platforms we also have gearing up our Bethel



Bible Series using virtual technology for you to stay connected to God’s word. Take advantage of the many learning opportunities here at St. John Baptist Church, be encouraged!



September Anniversaries

Chaney, Clarence & Kimberly
September 3, 1988 — 33 years

Johnson, Harvey & Rita
September 4, 2010 — 11 years

Rhone, Bernard
September 5, 1998 — 23 years

Myers, Lawrence & Alice
September 6, 2014 — 7 years

Perkins, Carl & Christy
September 9, 1995 — 26 years

Stevenson, Bennie & DeAndra
September 12, 2009 — 12 years

Kirk, Anthony & Shareece
September 15, 2013 — 8 years

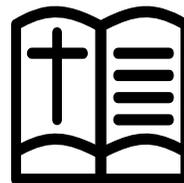
Burch, Beverly
September 19, 1999 — 22 years

Dugar, Jana
September 19, 2015 — 6 years



PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton



The Power of Prayer

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results. James 5:16

Prayer is effective with God. It affects the history of His church and people. Prayer is the one power the church can exercise in securing the working of God’s omnipotence in the world.

The pray of a righteous person is powerful and effective. A righteous person lives as the servant of righteousness (see Romans 6:16,19). The Lord loves the righteous, and their prayers have power (see Psalm 66:18-19; I John 3:22). When Christ gave His great prayer promises, it was to those who kept His commandments. “If

you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you” (John 14:15-16). “But if you stay joined to me and my work remains in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted!” (John 15:7).

When the righteous commit their whole being to take hold of God, prayer is powerful and effective. As Jacob said: “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” (Genesis 32:26).

Then comes the earnest prayer of many righteous people

together. When two or three agree, there is the promise of an answer. God will display His power even more when hundreds and thousands unite in earnest prayer.

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

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

WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny Emery, WMU President

Happy September! The St. John Women's Missionary Union is going strong and working to give you God's best in this last quarter of 2021!

God has been good and we are thankful! The St. John WMU has NOT been meeting in person, BUT we have been meeting to study God's Word. We have spent the last seven weeks in a power-packed Bible Study entitled: "Elijah, Faith and Fire." This incredibly formatted Bible Study has given us the tools we need to search the scriptures, to rest in the Providence of God, and the wisdom to move forward with the plan of God. We are excited about the truths that we discovered and we are preparing a more focused ministry based model. Our executive team will be meeting early this month to finalize plans for the rest of the year and beyond.

In addition to finishing the Elijah Bible Study, the WMU celebrated our First Lady and Circle OHJ Chairperson, Sis. Jacquie Jemison during the Annual Pastor and Wife Anniversary. We appreciate Sis. Jemison's leadership and consistency. We applaud her dedication and congratulate her on completing 30 years at the University of Central Oklahoma! Congratulations Sis. Jemison on your Retirement!

Lastly, we want to send a heartfelt "THANK YOU" for everyone who donated toward the toiletry campaign for Catholic Charities. The donated items were delivered. The personnel on duty were overjoyed to receive the needed items for women and their children who live at the facility. Thank you again to those of you who donated. God bless you. If you didn't have the opportunity to

donate, please know that we will be partnering with other organizations in the future, so there will be many other opportunities to donate.

If you want to activate your membership in the WMU, all you have to do is give your dues of \$24/year to Penny Emery,

Gerchel Holbert, Patricia Brewer, or Wanzetta Woody. We ask that you complete an offering envelope and give that envelope to one of the above designated persons.

Thank you for your prayers, your donations, and for your financial support.

Annual Promotion Sunday

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

— Ephesians 6:13-18

The pandemic has not stopped the word of the Lord going forth through our Director of Christian Education...Dr. Lawrence C. Kirk.

The fourth Sunday in September has always been our Annual Promotion Sunday. This year you will be able to hear Dr. Kirk's Annual Address through Facebook via St. John's website. His address will be set up beginning Saturday September 25, 2021.

This year marks Dr. Kirk's 19th year as Director of Christian Education here at St. John. He has not missed a "beat" in delivering and teaching the word of God to all of us through Enrichment Hour, Wednesday Bible Study, and continuing the Bethel classes with 12 graduates this year. Isn't God Great? Yes He Is!!!!!!

Rev. Kirk is a loyal and faithful servant of God. He is always available to serve in any capacity of church work. He takes great care to make sure all programs are successful. We are



Dr. Lawrence C. Kirk

encouraging your participation by tuning in and listening to his Annual Address. Also there will be a presentation of all the children and youth that are being promoted this year.

Again, let's thank Rev. Lawrence Kirk and his family for sharing and caring about the spiritual education and welfare of our Church Family.

School Year 2021/2022 Tutoring Starts September

11th. Class time is 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Spanish for Adults and Writing for Grades 9-12 is available on the 1st Saturday of the month. Flyer information available. Contact the church office at 405/478-3344 or Shirlee Tomlin a 405/514-4630.



All 2021 High School Recipients of the Rev. W. K. Jackson Christian Scholarship are reminded to submit a copy of their Class Schedule to the church office as soon as possible in order to receive the 1st half of their scholarship award. Half their award can be paid to assist with paying 1st semester expenses. Sis. Ruby Nichols for more information.



VIP ministry kicked off celebration at the Pig and Butcher Restaurant. We had a great time listening to live entertainment, fellowship and good food.



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

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator

Greetings to all!! The PF is alive and well!! As a reminder, PF is made up of approximately 90 volunteers serving as coordinators and group leaders who are responsible for contacting members in their birth month. Our primary goal is to reach out and touch every member of the church at least once a month. This is accomplished by making phone call, sending a card, emails, text messages, and even making visits when it's appropriate. The PF performs a valuable service for the church. As "Ambassadors of Christ", the PF is here to assist you what needs you and your families may have. Let me encourage you to get acquainted with your PF coordi-

nator/group leader. Give us the opportunity to show and share the Love of God with you and yours. You'll be glad you did!



The next fellowship is tentatively set for Wednesday, September 29th @ 7:30 p.m. Our hope is to have guest who can present information regarding healthy aging as well as Medicaid and Medicare. 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 SEPTEMBER MEMBERS!! SEPTEMBER MEMBERS, it's your birthday month and we say HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Let's give a birthday "shout-out to Sis Espenola Turner whose birthday is September 9th. Thank you for all you do.



Sis. Espenola Turner

Frankly Speaking

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



Attention All Children!!!

(Ages 4-11) —

Want to become a member of the 66 Club?

What is the 66 Club? I thought you would never ask!

The children of children church are now memorizing the 66 books of the bible. Once they can recite all books by memory, they will officially be given a membership card and become a member of the 66 Club.

Let's face it: the Bible can be overwhelming. There are 66 books, written by over 40 different authors. But it's also a book of answers.

The Bible has an answer to life's biggest questions for those willing to look.

The Bible is full of examples of how we should live. The stories in the Old Testament aren't there to just teach us a history lesson, they are there to help us find out how to live with each other, and how to obey God in every situation.

The New Testament is an amazing place to find God's promises, and the message of the Gospel in the best news in the world.

Tune Into Zoom every Wednesday evening @ 6:30 PM. We have lot's of fun while we are learning. Ms. Tasha Miles is our lead teacher. For additional information please contact Patricia Brewer via email @ mpbrewer69@att.net.

LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!

Technology Enables the Mission of the Church

By Rev. Marcus Carruthers

Technology is a resource the church must wisely steward to accomplish the Great Commission. We need to take advantage of technology in order to enable the church's mission.

Technology Enables Communication

Through Facebook and YouTube or through our website, we can easily communicate directly with our members and people not just next door but around the world, throughout the day and week. Technology enables the congregation easily to have direct communication with our Pastor and ministry leaders, and we can have communication with them on a broader and a clearer scale. Ongoing communication

through technology helps the mission of the church.

Technology Enables Community

Technology allows a greater sense of community that doesn't demand proximity. Proximity isn't required for community. For example, you can sit next to each other week after week and never talk. But through technology, people in our church are praying for each other thanks to our church Facebook page. Sometimes they already know each other, but at other times they meet one another through Facebook.

("Technology" continued on page 6)



EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister



Evangelism Ministry Update!

There is a story at Matthew 25 following the “Parable of the Ten Virgins”, and the “Parable of the Bags of Gold (talents), and it is the story of the “Sheep and Goat” (separation of them). The line that drives Evangelism and Prison Ministry and the “HANDS ME UP(S)” mInistry is “**TRULY I TELL YOU WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE**

LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME” (NIV/ MATTHEW 25:40). In the same breath we acknowledge there are two very vulnerable segments of our society—our children and our elderly (“**the least of these**”). With this in mind “**HAND ME UP(S) HAS A NEW CHALLENGE**”: **MINISTER TO CHARLES**

ATKINS OPPORTUNITIES GARDENS.

CHARLES ATKINS OPPORTUNITIES GARDENS IS AN APARTMENT COMPLEX AT 1917 N.E. 20TH STREET. It serves Seniors—62 plus and the Disabled via one bedroom apartments. It has 118 units. **OUR PROJECTED GOAL WAS TO SERVE THEM SEPTEMBER 2021.** The Pandemic has struck again and following CDC recommendations and guide lines no visitors are allowed, except for essential health workers. Initial contact has been made with the manager Renee Moore and Project Manager, Mia. Again, during the week of August 22, 2021, we visited Charles Atkins Opportunities Gardens to find a sign on the door, as per CDC GUIDE LINES, and recommendations, there are no visitors, except essential health workers until further notice.

WE ARE IN CREATIVE MODE TO STILL MINISTER TO CHARLES ATKINS OPPORTUNITIES GARDENS. We are thinking instead of clothes, we will do hygiene bags for men and women with—

soap, toothpaste, tooth brush, lotion, body spray, and body wash. We may do the hygiene bas in lieu of a “on site “free clothing market”.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Beginning September 1, 2021, we will receive hygiene items for the Charles Atkins.... residents.

We will receive soap, toothpaste, tooth brush, lotion, body wash, body spray for men and women.

ALSO HELP US PREPARE FOR A GENERAL GIVE AWAY “HAND ME UP(S)” 3RD SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON. What do we need? We need clothing for smaller men, teen boys and girls, children clothes, women clothing for the medium and plush sizes. We need volunteers. Please contact Reverend Cornelius David Wade in the office, **LEAVING A MESSAGE (405) 242-5320; TEXT OR CALL (405) 464-7914. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU A THOUSAND AND EVEN A MILLION FOLD FOR WHATEVER YOU DO FOR THE LEAST OF THESE!**

(“Technology” (“Technology” continued from page 5)

Social media is where younger generations are interacting. It’s the new marketplace. It may be unnatural for past generations, but it is how community for younger people is now started and developed. I am blessed because some of our most seasoned members are engaging us using technology. We use technology within our church to enable communication, community and discipleship. Through social media, a new attendee can connect to other church members before he or she ever has a chance to meet at a church gathering or a small group. Of course, true community requires feet and faces and not just electrons and avatars. But those electrons and avatars can be tools to bring people into closer community with feet and faces. This is a big shift in how we interact, but we have to use it if we want to enable community for the sake of the mission of the church.

Technology Enables Discipleship

Technology enables members and attendees to enhance their discipleship experience at

church. We have encouraged our members and attendees to post questions on Facebook in the middle of services, and we try to answer them.

All of these are tools to enhance discipleship. Technology, though, is not the goal. The goal is to enable the church’s mission to make disciples of all people groups.

Find the Benefits of Technology

There are unintended side effects of technology that are both de-personalizing and de-humanizing. But there are some wonderful benefits of technology that enable the mission of the church. We will use purposeful technology in church to enable communication, community and discipleship.

Let’s embrace technology together and impact the lives of people locally and globally. If you have a desire to serve please let me know, no experience required. Whether you are a child or a senior adult we have a place for you to serve. Please call Rev. Marcus Carruthers @ 479-263-8363 for more details. Blessings on you!

The Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) Fall Classes will begin September 13th for the Men’s Class and September 16th for the Women’s Class. Both classes will be studying The Gospel of Matthew. Contact the church office for information regarding meeting days/times and location.

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
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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!

Rev. Dawson,
Thank you so much for the calls, the prayers and your being there during my recent hospitalization and surgery. So much love was shown and I will never forget.

Deborah Glover

Pastor Jemison,
Thank you so much for the calls, the prayers and concern during my recent hospitalization and surgery. Its so wonderful having a pastor that genuinely cares for his sheep one by one.

Deborah Glover

Pastor Jemison, first Lady and Church Members of SJMBC,

On behalf of my family and I, we want to thank you for sending your love and encouraging words during the passing of our love ones during 2020. Last year was breath taking and many heart-breaks, but St. John members made sure my family was covered in prayer. Again, thank you

Love, Jenara (Fields) Simmons

To Pastor Jemison and the St. John Church Family,
Thank you so very much for your prayers, love and support during my time of recovery from surgery.

Sis. Maxine Washington

To the BEST Nursing Corp this side of judgement.

I thank you for your concerns, your prayers and support. Your kindness is such a blessing.

Love you and sincerely, Pat Powell

To my St. John Family,

Your kindness made a difference and your thoughtfulness touched my heart. Thank you during the passing of my Aunt.

Much Love, Derrick Griffin

Pastor Jemison & St. John family,

Thank you for all your prayers, calls and cards since my son passed. Your generosity is overwhelming! Thank you so much. The family of Ricky Baker

Sis. Charlene Newton

To Pastor M.L. Jemison & the St. John Missionary Baptist Church

Thank You! The family of Karen E. Davis-Craig say Thank You from our hearts. What a beautiful and glorious Homegoing Celebration. Thepraise, the message, the choir, and the love was superlative!!

Words are never enough
Seeds give words substance
During the time when it was tough
You showed love during our circumstances
Our Father in Heaven blesses us.
We are stewards of his grace
Our deed to you is a must
A smile on Jesus face

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SoonerCare

Sooner Care/Medicaid. The Oklahoma City Chapter of Links Incorporated will be assisting the Oklahoma Policy Institute with SoonerCare (Medicaid) expansion enrollment for adults ages 19-64. An appointment signup sheet will be available before and after Sunday service in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, call Donna Vaughn 405-630-7839 and leave a message. All calls will be returned.



The St. John A. J. Dean Bowling League is scheduled to start on September 11, 2021 at 5pm at the Holiday Lanes located at 44 SE 44th Street in OKC. It will be a sanctioned league. This league has been in existence 40+ years. If you are interested in bowling, please contact DeSota Bell at 405-424-6243.