

The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

January • 2023

(405) 478-3344

The Pastor's Pen

Beloved Members,

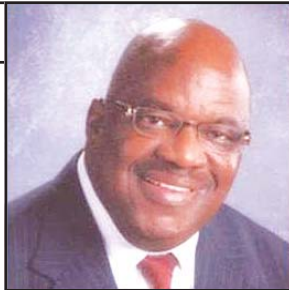
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

The doorway to a new year is open. What a marvelous opportunity to renew our commitment and dedication to the Lord, His Church and the work of ministry.

For the last two years we have centered our ministry efforts around the theme, "Building Back Better: Fresh Wind-Fresh Fire". The Covid 19 experience gave us the opportunity to assess, upgrade and redirect our approach to every dimension of our work. I am proud of the adjustments we've made.

The zeal to engage in the work of the ministry is alive and well. The table is now set for us to take giant steps into the next level of the Lord's work. We now know we have the gifts, the skill sets and spiritual maturity to "serve above and beyond the ordinary. Let us not shrink from this golden opportunity to lift higher the banner of our Savior.

It is His intent that we lay aside every weight, dismount any prohibiting shack-



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

les and "unleash" the potential He has embedded within us. "Unleashing the Church: Serving Above and Beyond the Ordinary" is this year's governing theme. It is based on John 14:12: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." John 14:12. I encourage you to embrace this passage of scripture and work faithfully to make this theme a reality as we move forward into this new year.

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it....." Revelation 3:8.

Onward and Upward Together
Dr M. L. Jemison, Senior Pastor

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Services at St. John and Other Events

St. John, we are excited to announce that on Sunday, January 15th, Dr. Terry D. Streeter will be our guest speaker at the 10:45 worship hour. Dr. Streeter is the pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., has preached and taught across the U.S. and internationally. A graduate of Lear Siegler Institute and Washington Bible College, he is the president of the North Capitol Street and Rhode Island Avenue Ecumenical Council and is involved in local, national, religious, and civic bodies such as the Missionary Baptist Minister's Conference. He served as the chair of the Board of Education and Publication for the Progressive National Baptist Convention as well as its vice president at large and former national dean of their Congress of Christian Education. He and his wife, Sherl Johnson, have four children.

As in years past, the citywide MLK Day service will be held this year at St. John on Sunday, January 16th at 3:00 p.m. The speaker for this year's service will be Pastor Lee Cooper Jr., Pastor of Prospect Baptist Church. We are looking forward to a wonderful experience for this MLK Day Citywide Service. For more information, contact the church office at 405-478-3344.

The Midwest City Dr. Mar-



Dr. Terry D. Streeter

tin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast honors and celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. King through prayer, inspirational messages, live entertainment and more. 2023 is the 26th anniversary of the Prayer Breakfast. This year, the Prayer Breakfast returns to its traditional schedule of being held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 16, 7:30 a.m., at the Midwest City Reed Conference Center. Tickets are \$25 each.

The MLK Coalition Parade will take place on January 16th at 2:00 p.m. The OKC MLK Holiday Events and Parade continue to bring OKC together as a sign of UNITY and a demon-

("Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day" continued on page 2)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

How do we know Jesus was the Messiah?

This question is crucial because it goes to the very essence of Christianity. If Christ is not the Messiah, then we are still lost in our sins!

The Hebrew word messiah means anointed or anointed one. Andrew said to Peter, "...we have found the Messiah which is, being interpreted, the Christ" (John 1: 41). The reference to "the Messiah" is to Jesus (John 1: 42). The word "Christ" (Messiah) is used 569 times in the Greek New Testament and applied to Jesus. Peter in answering Jesus' question, "whom say ye that I am" replied, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16: 16).

When Peter acknowledged Jesus' Messiahship, Jesus did not correct Peter, but accepted Peter's answer (Matt. 16: 17-

19). The woman from Samaria stated her belief that the Messiah was coming (John 4: 25). "Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he" (John 4: 26). Jesus' teaching and miracles were proof of his Messiahship. Jesus' teaching was different from others in his day (Matt. 7: 28, 29). Nicodemus said to Jesus: "...we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him" (John 3: 1-2, see also 20: 30, 31).

There are numerous, detailed Hebrew prophecies concerning the Messiah, his birth, life, death, and his resurrection which were vividly fulfilled in Jesus (Matt. 1: 18-25, Acts 3: 20-23). Jesus said "all things must be fulfilled...concerning me" (Luke 24: 44).

The issue for you and I is to accept what has been written in the word of God concerning His son. The Old Testament proclaims Him, and the New Testament declares Him. I want you to know we have several Bible studies that will help you under-



stand God's love story to you and your family that you too can confess just like Peter "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God". Contact me here at (405) 478-3344 and we will set you up with a Bible class for you and your family, be encouraged!



PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton



The Mercy of God

"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 136:1

This psalm is wholly devoted to the praise of God's mercy. In each of the twenty-six verses, we have the expression: "His mercy endureth for ever." The psalmist was full of this glad thought. The everlasting, unchangeable mercy of God is cause for unceasing praise and thanksgiving.

Let us read what is said about God's mercy in the well-known Psalm 103. "Praise the Lord, I tell myself, and never forget the good things he does for me ... He...surrounds me with love and tender mercies" (verses 2, 4). Of all God's other attributes mercy is the crown. "The Lord is merciful and gracious...full of unfailing love" (verse 8). As wonderful as God's greatness is, so infinite is His mercy. "For his unfailing love toward those who fear

him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth" (verse 11). What a thought! As high as the heavens above the earth, so immeasurably and inconceivably great is the mercy of God. "The love of the Lord remains forever with those who fear Him" (verse 17). Here again, the psalmist speaks of God's faithful love and mercy.

How frequently we have read these familiar words with-

out the least thought of their immeasurable greatness! Take time to thank God with great joy for the wonderful mercy with which He crowns your life and say: "Your unfailing love is better to me than life itself" (Psalm 63.3).

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

("Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day" continued from page 1)

stration of keeping the dream alive. The 2023 theme, "MLK H1Story: Our Legacy" shows how together we can withstand the many challenges we've faced over the last year. There will also be an in person Job Fair, Silent March, Bell Ringing and other programs. More information regarding the parade route and other activities can be found on the MLK Coalition website at www.okcmmlkj coalition.org. You can also contact Events Chair, William Jones at (405) 306-8440 or Events Co-Coordinator Monica Murrell at (405) 822-3274.



January Anniversaries

Harris, James & Ardrenna
January 6, 1995 — 28 years

Johnson, Marland & Joannie
January 7, 2001 — 22 years

Level, Sherrie Fredrick
January 9, 2015 — 8 years

Simpson, Michael & Monica
January 11, 1983 — 40 years

Tucker, Jon & Charmaine
January 17, 2009 — 14 years

Norwood, Raymond & Leaetta
January 18, 1979 — 44 years

Wray, Earnest & Stephanie
January 27, 1993 — 30 years

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! I pray each of you had a wonderful Holiday Season with family and friends. God has truly been good and gracious to us in 2022. We'll looking forward to all that will be in 2023!!

The 4th Quarterly Breakfast for 2022 held on December 4th was marvelous ... approximately 102 persons attended. In partnership with the Orientation Team, special focus was placed on our members who have joined in January 2020 through November, 2022...approximately 20 of our new members, both adults and children attended and were acknowledged! Rev. Marcus brought a dynamic message regarding spiritual gifts; and challenged us all to use and nurture the gifts God has placed within us. It was a marvelous way to close out the years quarterly breakfast series. Special thanks to Sis. Marjorie Harris, Bro Rudie Valentine and ALL OF OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER PARISH

FELLOWSHIP

At the prompting of Pastor Jemison, the Parish Fellowship Coordinators reached out and touched our sick and shut in members in a special way at Christmas time. Poinsettia plants, grip socks and fruit goody bags were delivered to each of the 42 members on our list. Several of our PF Coordinators gathered on December 19 to assemble the gift bags and headed out to make our deliveries. It was simply "outstanding" as Pastors expressed. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with Sis. Flora Herbison, Dr. Betty Mason, Bro Edward Evans, Sis. Iola Hurte, and Sis. Kathy Snells. Verbal reports from the other Coordinators who made deliveries are much the same. Sis Brenda Perry reports that Sis. Irene Cutliff was so grateful and thanked everyone for thinking of her and praying for her. I heard so many similar reports! Like I said **OUTSTANDING!** It's so important that we often remind our sick & shut in

members we're thinking of them. I want to thank all who participated, and especially to Bro Homer Dade for representing for the Deacons.

Blessings to all!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MEMBERS!!



JANUARY MEMBERS, it's your birthday month and we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!** Let's give a birthday "shout-out to our January PF Coordinators Deborah Glover (birthday is January 29th); and Beverly Kirk (birthday is January 9th). Thank you Sis. Deborah and Sis. Beverly for all you do. I want to give a "Shout-Out" to our January Deacons, Brothers Theron Perry, Gre-



gory Smith, and Ben Lang. Thank you for all you do!!



Sis. Deborah Glover



Sis. Beverly Kirk

LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister

*"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, He said, **'It is more blessed to give than to receive'**". Acts 20:35*

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you".

THANK YOU AGAIN ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND BOUNTIFUL GIVING TO SUPPORT "ANGEL TREE" DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. We began your gift giving on December 10, 2022 during the "COOKIE HOP". We continued with Dianne Wright

and Shirlee Tomlin reaching most on Monday, December 12, 2022. Dianne Wright and Reverend Cornelious Wade were out on December 17—OVER HILL AND DALE, ALL UP AND DOWN THE DUSTY TRAIL. The two went from one end of Oklahoma City to the other—from 87th Southwest to 63rd Northeast. They

literally went into the "hedges and highways...JUST TO TOUCH THE LIFE OF A CHILD. We finally threw in the towel on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2022 touching the lives of a family of five, a mother and 4 small children. We touched the lives of 65 children in all.

THANK YOU DONORS

WE MISSED: James and Ruby Nichols, and Kathy Simpson. Thank you Reverend Christine Byrd. Thanks to the unknown donor who left a bag of things in the office.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THE LORD GOD BLESS YOU A THOUSAND FOLD IN THE NEW YEAR, Reverend Cornelious Wade.

FUSION

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Submitted by DeAndra Stevenson



Rev. Wade and Rev. Doughty helping in kitchen

Thank you to all of the bakers and volunteers that participated in Envision's 1st Annual Cookie-Hop in partnership with St. John MBC & Angel Tree, Luella Dunn Children & Youth Department and W.K. Jackson Leadership Academy. The kids had a great time making ornaments, roasting s'mores and enjoying hot chocolate. Congratulations to Ms. Teri Anderson of Ebenezer Baptist Church who took home the 1st place prize.



DeAndra Stevenson, Cookie Hop winner Teri Anderson and judges Pastor Jemison, Debra Johnson and Pastor Derrick Scoby from Ebenezer



Children roasting S'mores

Safety & Security Ministry

Make space for God to speak with you

Greetings St. John members. I pray the holiday season has blessed you and your family with the true spirit of God's favor!

We have had a successful full opening of the church with minor inconveniences.... let's keep our vigilance up so ALL of our members are able to enjoy the fellowship that only SJMBC offers.

On Sunday January 22, 2023 the Safety & Security Ministry will host a training/familiarization meeting immediately after

service for **ALL** members of the Usher and Hospitality Ministries that should last 45 minutes. Please adjust your schedules so that you can attend this important training opportunity as we prepare for the upcoming severe weather our Oklahoma spring-time brings.

"We are all afraid to say too much, to feel too deeply, to let people know what they mean to us"



Winning Cookies



VIP “Seasoned Saints” Ministry

Submitted by Velma James Smith



Last month to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, more than one hundred VIPs and guests gathered at the Credit Union Event Center for a fun filled fellowship. Kudos to McNeal’s Catering for providing a delicious dining experience.

Just like the birth of Christ ushered in New Life, New Hope and New Joy, the New Year presents us with new opportunities to engage in kingdom building by sowing into the lives of others. The VIP “Seasoned Saints” Ministry is eager to continue our mission of encouraging our members to be active participants in our worship services, Christian education platforms and community outreach endeavors of the Church.



Technology Media/Digital Ministry

Life Behind the Scenes

By Rev. Marcus Carruthers, Technology Minister

Video content is important for all businesses, including churches. 86% of businesses use video to market themselves, and of that, 93% of marketers agree that video plays a large role in their marketing strategy. Video content is not just a trend, but rather, a vital piece in your church’s marketing strategy.

It’s no question that video is dominating social media platforms. Whether you’re on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, or Tik Tok, video is the most important content to share. Using video on social media platforms is becoming increasingly more important.

The average U.S. citizen has 7.3 social media accounts. Sometimes reaching your audience is as simple as placing yourself where they are most likely

to find you. In this case, that means using social media. To go a step further, video performs the best on these accounts for numerous reasons. Both Facebook and Instagram utilize streaming, which ranks the highest on feed algorithms, with normal videos following. Ultimately, posts containing videos are just more likely to be seen than those that don’t.

The emphasis on video and social media may seem overwhelming, but capturing videos in 2022 is easier than ever. Along with professionally captured videos, marketers and businesses share user-generated content. User-generated content (UGC), is any content—text, images, videos, and more—created and shared by the consumer of a product.

Now more than ever, people desire authenticity in marketing. User-generated content is real and raw, so it builds trust for someone considering attending our church for the first time.

Users are 2.4 times more likely to believe user-generated content is authentic. Whether it’s a restaurant, movie, book, or recipe, people are more likely to trust a recommendation from a real person rather than the business itself. Our church builds trust the same way. Videos captured by the members of our church at a small group, a youth event, or a meal together, reveal life behind the scenes.

This content is easy to access, as the majority of our members likely have social media ac-



counts and phones with cameras. User-generated content proves that video doesn’t have to be challenging or over the top, but in 2022 video is more important than ever. I would like to challenge you to use your phone to create a quick video of something happening within your ministry here at St. John and post-it.

Blessings on you. Call me if you have any questions or if I can help you. It’s simple and easy.

WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny Emery, WMU President

Happy New Year!



Circle OHJ Leads Devotion at WMU Bouquet



Bouquet attendees welcome caterers "Seasoned From Above"

Your St. John Women's Missionary Union is SO thankful for you! Our St. John Family, Friends and Supporters have TRULY blessed us this past year. We have had an opportunity to be a blessing to SO many through your prayer and financial assistance.

This past year, the St. John WMU blessed our members with a fantastic training at the beginning of 2022. In February, we then planned and assembled "Love Baskets" for the sick and shut-in of St. John. We had the pleasure of distributing these "Love Baskets" to those members and friends in nursing homes and private homes. In April, we sent Easter greetings to all sick and shut-in members. In June, we took a WMU Excursion to Tulsa, Oklahoma. We had a tremendous time visiting the Greenwood Cultural Center as well as the Greenwood Rising Museum. We had a fantastic meal at Sunday Dinners and More on Apache Street and then journeyed home.

In July, we hosted our Annual Fruit-Filled Fellowship. The ladies enjoyed fun, fellowship, and fresh fruit and vegetables. Sis. Rhonda Mitchell shared the "Fruit of the Spirit" from Galatians 5th Chapter. In July, the WMU also shared love with our sick and shut-in members by posting yard signs in their yards. The yard signs simply read, "St. John Loves You, We Miss You, and We're Praying For You." Our members LOVED this visual sign of love and care. Thank you to everyone who helped deliver these yard signs.

In August, I accompanied our 2nd Vice-President our WMU and the 1st Vice-President of POBSC Women's Dept to Orlando, Florida for the Progressive National Baptist Convention. Truly, we learned a lot in our class and enjoyed the worship and fellowship with those who traveled with us.

In September, we met together IN The PERSON for the FIRST time in 3 years. What a blessing it was to see everyone!

The WMU also participated in the first POBSC Women's Dept Fundraiser. We sold 103 CASES of popcorn! That's over 3,000 bags of popcorn and YOU, St. John helped us do it. For our efforts, the POBSC sent a check to St. John WMU of \$1,800. This money helped us continue our efforts to support The Maisha Project(\$500) and The Women's Prison Ministry Project(\$850)! Again, thank you SO much for continuing to help us as we seek to serve and bless the community.

In October, the WMU was so excited to have Sis. DeAndra Stevenson as our guest speaker for our Annual Eula Lee Jackson Women's Day. This young woman warmed our hearts and challenged our minds as she spoke and outlined God's Word to us.

In November, the WMU hosted our Annual WMU Bazaar! Thank you St. John and Friends for your support! The Bazaar was well attended and we thank you for your support.

We ended the year with our

Annual WMU Bouquet! It is always a pleasure to say "thank you" to our leaders for the GREAT JOB they do throughout the year. This year, we ask "Seasoned From Above" to cater our Bouquet Meal. What a treat! The presentation was flawless! The service was excellent and the food was delicious. We had a great time playing a Biblical version of Family Feud and everyone in attendance left with a gift.

What a fantastic year! What a blessing to have this opportunity to serve this organization! What a gift to have supportive Pastoral leadership! We do not take any of these blessings for granted.

We look forward to a progressive year as we seek to become better and better.

Come join us! We would LOVE to have you! Our dues are \$24/year.

We plan to meet at 2pm on Saturday, January 7th in the Fellowship Hall.

*In His Service,
Penny R Emery*

Parish Fellowship 4th Quarterly Breakfast and preparing Christmas gifts for our Sick and Shut in



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Pastor Jemison, Dr. Kirk, Rev. Dawson, the WMU, Pastor's Aid, the Waymakers Sunday School class friends and Church family.

Thank you for the many cards and gifts as well as food and phone calls sent to my family during the passing of my brother Henry. Your thoughtfulness has not gone unnoticed. Thank you, God bless you all.

Alice Troy

Pastor Jemison and the St. John Church Family,

Thank you for your spirit of compassion as you prayed for me during the transitioning of my brother to his "Heavenly Home". God honored your prayers as He did surround me with His comforting love and filled me with the peace that only He can give. May you forever be empowered to bless others.

Grateful, Sister Lois Childs

Pastor Jemison, Rev. Dawson & St. John Family,

We want to thank you for your prayers, gifts, cards, gracious resolution and calls during the Homegoing of our brother, Johnny Maxwell. Continue to keep us in your prayers.

Deacon Freddie & Yvonne Maxwell

Pastor Jemison and Church Family,

Thank you for your note of expression of continuing to keep me in prayer. I am grateful!

Sincerely, Roy Joseph Piggee

Pastor Jemison & St. John Family,

I want to let you know how much you're appreciated. Thank you for all your calls, prayers and gifts! Much Love

Jenny Membere

Pastor M.L. Jemison,

Thank you and our gratefulness to our St. John MB Church for keeping our family lifted up in prayer. Thanks again Pastor for the Eulogy and encouragement message. You administered to our hearts. Thank you for your kindness, love and Blessings we received during the loss of our mother.

Regina, Renita, Reggie Jackson, Wisby, Fish

Thank YOU All St. John Family,

For thinking of us, praying for us, calling to check on us, bringing meals to us, sending cards to us. We MISS and APPRECIATE all that you do Pastor Jemison, Mrs. Jackie Jemison, WMU, Deacons, Parish Fellowship and Sister Ruby Nichols, Sister Barbara Roberts, Sister Stella Goodall, and Rev. Cornelius Wade. We feel blessed to be able to be a part of the services and bible study on the internet. God Bless You St. John Family

Billie "Vanessa" Evans and Brother Edward (Eddie) Evans

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



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|---------------------|-----------------|
| SILENT MARCH | 9 AM |
| BELL RINGING | 10:45 AM |
| MLK PROGRAM | 12:15 PM |

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| JOB FAIR | 9 AM - 1 PM |
| PARADE | 2 PM |

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

MLK HISTORY

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| 2023 |  | Oklahoma City Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Coalition |
|-------------|--|---|

OUR Legacy

Save the Date
01-16-2023

WEBSITE: OKCMLKJRCOALITION.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
WILLIAM JONES @ 405-306-8440