

The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

March • 2021

478-3344

The Pastor's Pen



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

Beloved Members,

Your resilience during this pandemic season has simply been outstanding. Not only have you met the challenge, but you have used this uncharted season to advance the ministry of the Church. In a creative way our service has expanded above and beyond expectations. We have set new standards, reached new plateaus while maintaining the level of excellence we are accustomed to. Hats off to the leadership whose tenacity and contribution has been at the center of this unprecedented effort.

We are now preparing for Reentry. Easter Sunday, April 4, is the target date. Many of you have expressed a hunger and thirst for coming back to church. There is no better time to reenter the Sanctuary than Resurrection Sunday. I am excited! And I am so looking forward to seeing you and your families in worship together. Get Ready!! Use this month of March to prepare yourselves mentally, spiritually and physically.

The protocols we have established will be implemented each and every time we gather. The Protocol Committee even now is preparing the church for our return. We are working hard to alleviate any fears or prohibitions you may have about coming back to church. How-

ever, if there remains some lingering apprehension services will remain broadcasted online (Facebook live, YouTube, and on our website (www.stjohnokc.org))

In recent weeks the FDA has approved at least 3 highly effective vaccines to inoculate us from COVID-19. Personally, Jackie and I have taken both vaccine shots. Our reactions to them have been minimal at best. If you have not signed up for the vaccines do it ASAP. Remember the old adage, "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure".

In closing, the Easter Season is a great time to assess and rejuvenate our commitment to the Lord. The Cross of Calvary certainly validated his sacrificial love and commitment to us. The Apostle reminds us, "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us". Listen to Jesus, "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for a friend". As we move toward that celebrated day of redemption let's read again the Gospel Accounts about the sacrificial love of our Risen Savior.

Peace

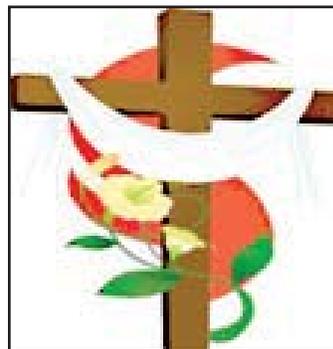
Dr. M.L. Jemison

Frankly Speaking

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



Luella Dunn Children & Youth Annual Easter Program



Tune in to Facebook and YouTube on Sunday, April 4, 2021 @ 9:30 AM for the Children & Youth Virtual Easter Program. You will not want to miss this Treat.

Our Sermon for this Month is "The Case of the Empty Tomb"

Scripture: Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:18 (NIV)

Do you like mystery stories? Well I do!

This story begins very early in the morning on the first day of the week. Jesus had just been

crucified and buried. Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' followers, went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. When she got there, she saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Peter and John and said to them, "They have taken the Lord's body from the tomb and I don't know where they have put him."

Peter and John raced to the tomb. John got there first. He looked in the tomb and saw the linen wrappings lying there. Then Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linens that John had seen lying there. As he investigated further, he saw the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was also folded and lying apart from the other wrappings. After Peter looked around for a few minutes, John joined him inside. When they were sure that the tomb was empty, they left and went home.

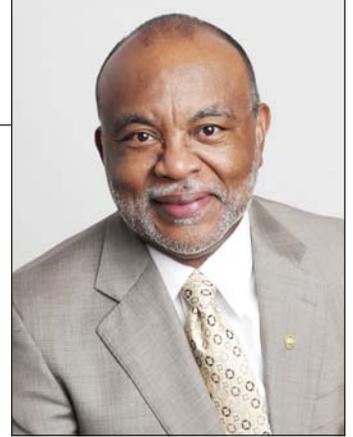
Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she looked

*("Frankly Speaking"
continued on page 2)*

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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



Taking the Myth Out of Marriage

When a couple stands before a minister and repeats the vows “for better or worse,” they are making a commitment to a life-long journey. Most engaged couples prepare more for their wedding than they do for their marriage. The wedding bell blues are common after the excitement of an elaborate wedding celebration. Marriage involves more than an elaborate ceremony. It involves the acceptance of reality for a lifelong journey.

Over the last two decades marriage specialists have researched the ingredients of a happy marriage. Happily married couples will have the following ingredients in their marriage.

1. Healthy expectations of marriage,

2. A realistic concept of love,

3. A positive attitude and outlook toward life,

4. The ability to communicate their feelings,

5. An understanding and acceptance of their gender differences,

6. The ability to make decisions and settle arguments, and

7. A common spiritual foundation and goal.

Every couple should be aware of these issues before and after they marry. Taking the time to understand these issues is like investing in an insurance policy against divorce. Many couples wrongly blame in-laws, money and lack of sex for break-ups and marital dissatisfaction.

However, the hot points in marriage usually result from poor

communication, gender issues and lack of spiritual health.

Every difficult marriage is plagued by a vast assortment of misconceptions about what marriage should be. The following ideas are harmful:

1. We expect exactly the same things from marriage.

2. Everything good in our relationship will get better.

3. Everything bad in my life will disappear.

4. My spouse will make me whole.

As members of the household of faith, we must participate in taking the mythology out of marriage. For too long, marriage has been saddled with unrealistic expectations and misguided assumptions. When we are liberated from these myths, we can settle into the real world

of marriage with all its joys, sorrows, passions and pain. Saying “I do” brings with it a host of conscious and unconscious expectations that are not always fulfilled. Most incongruous expectations fall into two major categories: unspoken rules and unconscious roles. Bringing both of them out into the open can save years of wear and tear on a marriage.

(Excerpted from Saving your Marriage Before it Starts by Dr. Leslie Parrott.)

Annual W. K. Jackson Day

By Pastor M. L. Jemison

Sunday March 28, 2021 is Dr. W.K. Jackson Annual Day. Rev. Walter Kinsley Jackson served St. John members faithfully along with his family, Eula Lee Jackson, wife, and Waltine Jackson, daughter, for 58 years. Pastor W. K. Jackson became Co-Pastor to Rev. Johnson on the fourth Sunday in July, 1945 and the rest is history. St John has a rich history and in our works the many saints who have gone on to be with the Lord still lives on in our church works today.

Join in with us on this Annual Day and help us celebrate the life and memories of Pastor W. K. Jackson.



Dr. W. K. Jackson

(“Frankly Speaking” continued from page 1)

inside the tomb and saw two angels sitting there. One of them was sitting at the head and the other at the foot where the body of Jesus had been lying. “Why are you crying?” the angels asked.

“Because they have taken my Lord and I don’t know where they have put him,” she answered.

Then Mary turned and was about to leave when she saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. “Woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her.

Mary, thinking that he was a gardener said, “Sir, if you have taken my master away, tell me where he is so that I can go to him.”

“Mary!” Jesus said.

When Jesus spoke her name,

Mary knew who he was. She turned to him and cried out, “Teacher!”

“Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I have not yet ascended to my Father. “Go and tell my brothers that you have seen me and that I am going to return to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.”

Mary found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord.” Then she gave them the message that Jesus had told her to tell them.

And that solves “The Case of the Empty Tomb.” The tomb is empty because Jesus is not dead, he is alive! He is risen just as he said!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, the empty tomb is no mystery to us. He is risen! We rejoice in his name. Amen.



PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton

God Is Sufficient

"My gracious favor is all you need." 2 Corinthians 12:9

Who is sufficient for real intercession? The more we study and try to practice the grace of intercession, the more we feel overwhelmed by its greatness and our weakness. Let that feeling lead you to hear "My gracious favor is all you need," and to answer truthfully, "Our only power and success come from God" (2 Corinthians 3:5).

Take courage; you are called to take part in the intercession of Christ. The burden and the agony, the triumph and the vic-

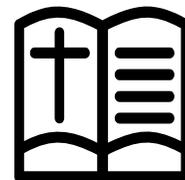
tory are all His. Learn from Him; to know how to pray, yield to His Spirit in you. He gave Himself as a sacrifice to God for us that He might have the right and power of intercession. "He bore the sins of many and interceded for sinners" (Isaiah 53:12).

Let your faith rest boldly on His finished work. Let your heart identify with Him in His death and His life. Like Him, give yourself to God as a sacrifice for others. It is your high-

est calling, your true and full union with Him.

Come and give your whole heart and life to intercession, and you will know its blessedness and its power. God asks nothing less, the world needs nothing less, and Christ asks nothing less; let nothing less be what we offer to God.

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.



The Pastor's Partners in Prayer Ministry meet on the second Wednesday from 6:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Pastors office to pray with him. Come join us and God Bless You.



March Anniversaries

Heath, James & Anna
March 1, 1980 — 41 years

Kirk, Lawrence & Beverly
March 09, 1974 — 47 years

Townsend, Henry & Susan
March 11, 1972 — 49 years

Richardson, Reginald & Sherri
March 12, 1994 — 27 years

Davis, Darryl & Cynthia
March 14, 1993 — 28 years

Gray, Melvin & Latresha
March 14, 2000 — 21 years

Spigner, Marcellus & Melody
March 16, 2010 — 11 years

Washington,
Kenneth & Maxine
March 16, 1979 — 42 years

Watson, Donald & Mary
March 16, 1976 — 45 years

Walker, Michael & Brenda
March 19, 1977 — 44 years

Bell, Desota & Diana
March 30, 1968 — 53 years

Prison Ministry

Submitted by Rev. Cornelius Wade, Evangelism Minister

Second Chance Moth

St. John Missionary Baptist Church Prison Ministry takes this opportunity to share this important "April Message from the National Prison Ministry Fellowship."

DID YOU KNOW... 1 IN 2 AMERICANS HAS HAD A LOVED ONE IN PRISON OR JAIL? That means there are people in your church who have personally felt the impact of incarceration. But they might not talk about how it has affected them and their family. Would you consider taking a step to build a welcoming culture of restoration for those in your congregation and community who have personally experienced incarceration.

As believers we know the ultimate "SECOND CHANCE" (my emphasis) comes through Christ's sacrifice. Christ tell us in Matthew 25 (NIV) "WHATSOEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF

THESE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME. Followers of Christ have unparalleled capacity to welcome people with a criminal record and help unlock second chances.

Every April, we celebrate Second Chance Month, the nationwide effort to raise awareness about barriers faced by people with a criminal record and unlock second chances. Churches, businesses, and other organizations have joined Prison Fellowship to affirm that people with a criminal record have God-given dignity and the capacity to make important contributions to our communities.

.....LET'S MAKE RESTORATION POSSIBLE....."

We at St. John believe in "SECOND CHANCES"...WE OPEN OUR RANKS THIS YEAR TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM YOU THE ST.

JOHN FAMILY (this March) ABOUT HOW WE AT ST. JOHN CAN MAKE OURS A MORE WELCOMING CHURCH, AND FOSTER MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SECOND CHANCES. Please feel free to leave a message for Reverend Cornelius D. Wade (405) 242-5320.

CLOSING THOUGHT. Jesus Christ in the most powerful parable in the New Testament tells the story of the prodigal son. The prodigal son takes a journey in a far county and enters a riotous life and a downward spiral. At his lowest point, the prodigal son, in shame and want, decides to go back to his father and his father's house. The prodigal son admits he is wrong embraces the life the father has for him. (READ LUKE 18:11-31) THANK GOD THAT GOD IS WILLING TO GIVE EACH OF US A SECOND CHANCE!!!

WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny Emery, WMU President

What a wonderful month we had in the month of February, 2021! God has truly been good and we are so appreciative His love and grace. Your St. John Women's Missionary Union is doing a fantastic job! Although this season has been very challenging, we continue to find ways to minister. We shared 60 gift cards for Valentine's Day. Our seniors were so excited to receive the gift cards and Valentine Day cards that we sent them in the mail.

Ladies are supporting this ministry wholeheartedly through participating in their individual Circles as our monthly Mission Meeting on the first Saturday of every month. We are SO excited about our book study, "Makeovers With Leftovers." Every first Saturday, we share our thoughts on a chapter in this book. This month, we will share from Chapter 2 at 11:30am, March 6th. Mission members and friends can tune in to the FaceBook Live.

Our prayers are with our sick and shut-in and our bereaved. Please continue praying for this ministry. We appreciate you!



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."

WK Jackson Scholarship - 2021

*Submitted by Sis. Ruby Nichols,
Scholarship Committee Chairperson*

ATTENTION SJMBC High School Seniors! St. John's Scholarship Committee is looking forward with you to your pending graduation. We ask for your help in our preparations for a celebration of your special occasion by completing a SR HI ID Form from the scholarship bulletin board and turning it in to the church office as soon as possible.

Our thanks to the four youth members identified below, and to their parents, for completing their ID Forms. They are:

- Malcolm R. Williams
- Jalen T. Nero
- Jazzlyn L. Nero
- Michael's C. Harris-Tate

Please provide the information requested by completing an ID Form from the Scholarship Bulletin Board and leaving it in the church office.

Thank You!

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

NORTH TO WILSHIRE

Bus Transportation Services

“Need a ride to church services?”

CALL FOR THE BUS

DIAL: 478-5644, Ext. 160

The Bus Transportation Ministry will pick-up individuals for the Enrichment Hour (Sunday School), Worship Service, Prayer Meeting, including P31 and SOS and most other church programs. Please call this number at least two (2) hours before your services or program start time. Leave a message on answering services giving us your name, address and phone number. On Sunday mornings, Transportation Ministry will take individuals home immediately after service. Anyone desiring to stay after church for dinners or other programs will need to make provisions for their transportation back home.

Thank You, Kenneth Washington
A blessed service, rendered by the church

SOUTH TO FIRST STREET

WEST TO WESTERN

EAST TO BRYANT

You may view the Beacon on the church website

www.stjohnokc.org

You can follow us on Facebook:

Search for St. John Missionary Baptist Church of OKC



The Beacon

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

Staff

Debra Johnson • Diana Bell • Lamonia Parker

DON'T FORGET

The membership can keep abreast of what is going on at St. John by submitting your news to the BEACON newspaper mailbox no later than the Third Sunday of every month.



Social Media

Volunteer Needed

The church is in need of responsible/committed volunteers to work with Sis. Debra Johnson in updating and maintaining our social media accounts. If you are skilled and interested in serving in this area, please contact Sis. Johnson at 816-7493.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Metro Tech has free Zoom exercise classes. The classes are open to anyone who has Zoom. The link is <https://www.metrotech.edu/metrofit>

St. John,

Thank you for all of the calls and prayers during my recent hospital stay. I really want to thank Rev David Dawson for his calls, his encouragement and most of all his prayers. Also, a special thank you to Waymakers my enrichment hour class, they never stopped reaching out to me and keeping me lifted in prayer and non stop encouragement. I'm still recovering and asking for your continued prayers.

Sincerely, Karen E Craig

Thank You! Thank You!

To Pastor, St. John Ministers, Members & Friends:

Please allow us to express our thanks and appreciation on behalf of the family for the calls, cards, prayers, and expressions of concern for our sister in her passing. We felt God's love expressed through you. Please continue to remember us.

Jessica and Zenophon Warrior Jr.

On behalf of the sentiments of the late Bro Perry Scott, he leaves \$500.00 to the St. John Missionary Baptist Church February Parish Fellowship Benevolent Fund. Thank you for all you do as you faithfully serve the Lord in ministry.

Submitted by Rose Tucker

To Thank You

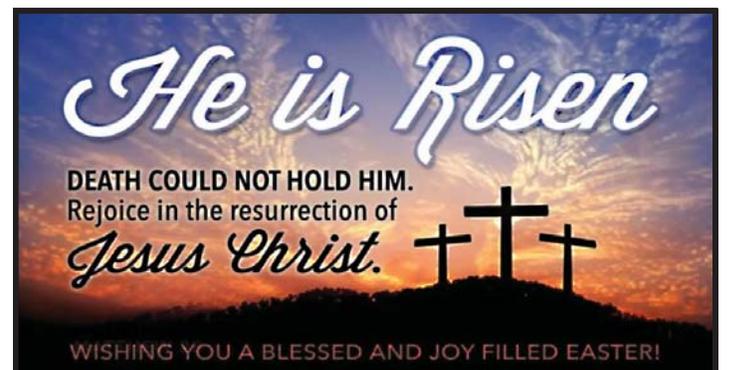
Thanks for working with us through a pandemic and the weather.

Cordelia Sanders/Wells Older

Pastor Jemison,

Thank you so much for the card that you sent me. I appreciate the words of comfort. Please continue to pray for me during this difficult process of losing my daughter Demeshia "Mesia" and my father, Donnell Hayes Sr. Much prayers are needed for me and my family.

Thank you! Danette Clifton



St. John Re-Opens Easter Sunday!!

Join us online or in person!

WELCOME BACK

See you on April 4th @ 10:45am

St. John is welcoming all members and visitors back to the church on April 4th which is Easter Sunday. All appropriation preparations are being made for you to re-enter the church safely. Social distancing and mask wearing is still required. We are so excited about seeing you on April 4th...Resurrection Sunday whether onsite or on online (Facebook live, YouTube, and on our website at www.stjohnokc.org)

PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator



Greetings to all!!! It finally happened....it was Spectacular!! PF held its first CONNECT session on Wednesday, Feb 24th @ 7:30pm. WE HAD A WONDERFUL VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP!! At least 40 people on online for the first session. I can't begin to express

how much everyone enjoyed seeing members they had not seen over the past year. Through use of breakrooms, it was arranged that Pastor got a chance to great all members on the call. I want to thank Sis Ghita Williams, Sis Mary Robinson and Sis Ruby Nichols for facilitating the fellowship.

If you missed the 1st session, your next opportunity to "join

the fellowship" is Wednesday, March 24th @ 7:30 p.m. Zoom call information is provided as follows:

MEETING ID: 245 333 9136
PASSCODE: 830707

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



Sis. Geneva Wray

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

Let's give a birthday "shout-out to Sis. Geneva Wray (Birthday March 18th). Thank you Sis Geneva for all you do.

