

The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

January • 2025

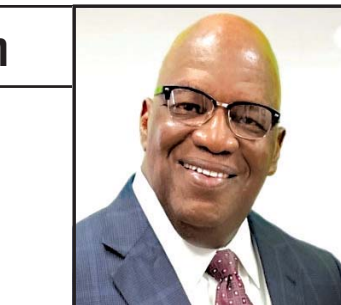
(405) 478-3344

The Pastor's Pen

Beloved Members,

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we pause to reflect on the countless blessings bestowed upon us. In Isaiah 43:18-19, we are reminded, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" May this year be a canvas upon which the Lord paints fresh mercies and opportunities for growth in our faith and fellowship.

As the dawn breaks on this new chapter, let us embrace the promise of Philippians 4:19, which assures us that "God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." May you find peace in His provision and strength in His presence, as we journey together in love and unity. Like the psalmist declares in Psalm 90:17, "May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands."



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

In this new year, let our hearts be filled with hope and our spirits ignited with passion for His purpose. As we navigate the seasons ahead, may we seek to love one another deeply, serve with humility, and share the light of Christ with a world in need. Let us remember that each day is a gift, an opportunity to reflect His grace and truth in all we do.

As I conclude this blessing, I leave you with the words from Numbers 6:24-26: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." May this year be one of abundant grace, deep joy, and unwavering faith. Amen.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration — 2025



As in years past, the citywide MLK Day Service and Program will be held this year at St. John on Sunday, January 19th at 3:30 p.m. The speaker for this year's service will be Rev. Dr. Anthony Wilcox. The Bio for Dr. Wilcox is as follows:

Pastor Anthony W. Wilcox, who is affectionately known by his members as "Pastor Wil", is a native of Houston, Texas, and without a doubt one of the most gifted and dynamic preachers/teachers in America today. He is the product of the Houston public schools, a graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas Southern University (Houston, TX), a Master of Divinity degree from the School of Theology, Oral Roberts University (Tulsa, OK) and a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Yale University School of Divinity (New Haven, CT). He also has a Masters of Philosophy in Social Ethics from Drew University (Madison, N.J.).



Rev. Dr. Anthony Wilcox

Pastor Wilcox is the heir to a great legacy of preaching and ministry through his father, the late Apostle E. W. Wilcox. His father developed a national ministry of evangelism and church planting and served as pastor of Bible Days Revival Church in Houston for over 45 years.

Pastor Wil, additionally served as Pastor of The Liberty Baptist Church in Elizabeth, NJ, for more than 12 years. In a previous assignment, he served as Pastor of Bible Days Revival Church of Galveston, Texas, prior to his matriculation to Oral Roberts University

Pastor Wil served as the pastor of the Bible Days Church for 14 years since returning to Hous-

("Dr. Martin Luther King Day" continued on page 3)

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister

“ANGEL TREE 2024...SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME, AND FORBID THEM NOT”... (MARK 10:14)

“ANGEL TREE 2024” GIVES ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY AN OPPORTUNITY TO MINISTER TO CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS. Thank you, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, for the very gracious, very liberal, very bountiful way you responded this Christmas Season. We had a total of eighty children and seventy-nine packages were delivered successfully. You forgot these children were not your children and grandchildren. You spent and spend “as if doing unto God”...We saw a lot of tears of joy from parents who were overwhelmed for what you did for them and their children, we cried with them.... YOU DID IT ALL, RIDING CARS, A BIKE FOR A SMALL ONE, CLOTHES, SHOES, BASKETBALLS, GIFT CARDS, BODY AND BATH, NIKE JOGGING SUITS. THANKS, I'M SURE GOD SAID “WELL DONE, MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS.

YOU NEED TO KNOW THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS DO NOT SET THE TONE; WE DO NOT SERVE 2 OF 5 IN A FAMILY. WE SERVE EVERY CHILD IN THE HOUSEHOLD. Sometimes fathers will only name their children in a household, we work to serve every child in the family. Your Pastor and this team will not let Angel Tree be another occasion when children get hurt. If there are five in a family, we serve five. Our original list included sixty children, after calling mothers, and grandparents, we had seventy-six. In the end we had a list of 80 and 79 of those eighty were delivered. We were calling at the end of November and before December 22, 2024, the addresses in some cases had changed again. We made numerous phone calls and sent letters to get the job done. THANK YOU, THANK YOU AND THANK GOD!!!

THANK YOU ANGEL TREE SPONSORS: Dr. & Mrs. M.L. (Jackie) Jemison, Marion Bradford, Evangelist Rhonda Hall Williams, Dr. Gloria Anderson, Ben & Gwinetta Lang, Diane

Franklin, Judy Ogans, Rev. David & Diane Lounds, Velma Smith, Clara Hayes, Jimmie Faye Curtis, John & Mary Robinson, Alice Troy, Patrick & Angelia Wilson, Thomas & Linda Jaha, Emily Berry, Mabel Friday, James & Ruby Nichols, Dillard Bowie, Roshauna Berry, Richard & Theresa Perkins, Vicki Watson, Rev. Damascus Williams, Denise Baccus-Bowie, Barbara Ross, Wanda Jean Thomas, Larcenia Coulter, Rita Watson, Ray & Janice McCormick, Evelyn Nixon, Charles & Jerri Shepherd, Varite Williams, Rev. Brian & Christine Eakers, Deborah Simpson, Rev. & Mrs. Keith (Linda) Carter, Rev. Betty Branch Winters, Paul & Lori Stephens, Darryl & Estraelita Green, Anna Sharp, Curry & Ardenna Harris, Gary Martin, Cecille Miles, Brenda Perry, Shirlee Tomlin, Evelyn Spriggs, Debra Johnson, Nell Venable, Myron & Cynthia Knight, Annie Friday, Judy Ashton, Carolyn Cheadle, Leonard & Julie Coffee, Dianne Turner, Kathy Simpson, Deacon Reggie & Reverend Sherry Richardson, Ronald Smith, Kym Terry, Eva King, Greg & Vernetta DeMartra, Vernetta Johnson, Dr. Corey & Leandra Moore, Rev. L.R. Williams, Bennie & Rev. DeAndra Stevenson, Theron & Cleo Perry, WINTER COAT DONATION: TARA WOOD & ARMY OFFICERS MOSIE & LOWERY.

ANGEL TREE DISTRIBUTORS: Angelia Wilson and Reverend Cornelius David Wade. SATURDAY CHECK LIST: Diane Wright & Rev. Wade. SUNDAY ANGEL TREE DISTRIBUTION TEAM: Darin & Yvette (Candy) Lipscomb, Dijour Lipscomb, Diane Wright, Denise Blakely, Evangelist Rhonda Hall Williams. PHOTOGRAPHER: Anna Sharp. MORAL SUPPORT: Aniyah Lowe. CVC MAKEUP FOR GAURDIANS...Evelyn Nixon & Sandra Wallace. MAKING THE SOCK GIFT SPECIAL: Shanna Wilson. HOME/SPECIAL DELIVERY: Glenda Mumford. OTHER PRISON MINISTRY OUTREACH: MABEL BASSETT WOMEN'S PRISON: Reverend Betty Branch Winters & Team. BERRY HOUSE/JUVENILE CORRECTIONS SESSIONS: Reverend Cornelius David Wade. JOSEPH HALL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY & THE JULIUS JONES FOUNDATION FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Reverend Marcus Carruthers.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024...1300 HOURS...THE OKLAHOMA PRISON FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON/THE KITCHEN/OKC. SPEAKERS INCLUDED: Jermaine Wilson: From Prisoner to Mayor; Mayor David Holt. Representing our Church Family.... Reverend Betty Branch Winters, Reverend Marcus Carruthers, Reverend Keith Ogans, and Reverend Cornelius David Wade.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, AND THANK YOU AGAIN, ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY, THANK YOU PASTOR, DR. M.L. JEMISON, AND THANK GOD FOR HELPING US SERVE THE LEAST, THE LAST, THE LOST AND THE LEFT OUT. LOVE YOU MADLY, Reverend Cornelius David Wade.



January Anniversaries

Harris, James & Ardenna — January 6, 1995 — 30 years
Johnson, Marland & Joannie — January 7, 2001 — 24 years
Level, Sherrie Fredrick — January 9, 2015 — 10 years
Simpson, Michael & Monica — January 11, 1983 — 42 years
Tucker, Jon & Charmaine — January 17, 2009 — 16 years
Norwood, Raymond & Leaetta — January 18, 1979 — 46 years
Wray, Earnest & Stephanie — January 27, 1993 — 32 years

WMU Highlights

Submitted by Penny R. Emery, President
St. John Women's Missionary Union

Happy New Year 2025!

Your St. John WMU is ready to welcome you into this new year! We are looking forward to hosting our first WMU Mission Meeting of the year on Saturday, January 4th at 2:00 p.m. in the M.L. Jemison Conference Center. You do not want to miss this Mission Meeting! We will be sharing our vision, goals, and plans for the upcoming year and how you can play a vital role in sharing the Gospel of Christ with us. Our yearly dues are just \$25 per person. Add your faith and gifts to ours and let us do great things for God this year! See you on Saturday, January 4th @ 2:00 p.m.! Please plan to attend. Our WMU Executive Committee will be there waiting to greet you:

- President Penny Emery
- 1st Vice-President Gerchel Holbert
- 2nd Vice-President Kim Tomlin
- Secretary Melanie Little
- Treasurer Patricia Brewer
- Benevolence Wanzetta Woody
- Circle #1 Penny Emery
- Circle #2 Gerchel Holbert
- Circle #3 Dianne Turner
- Circle #4 Evelyn Spriggs & Susan Townsend
- Circle #5 (Pearl Kirk) Barbara Bradford
- Circle #6 (OHJ) First Lady Jacquie Jemison

Blessings to you

(“Dr. Martin Luther King Day” continued from page 1)

ton. In obedience to a divine call to the West side of Houston, Pastor Wil has renamed the church (The Encounter Church of Katy) with a strong vision for Katy, TX. and vicinity.

For 32 years Pastor Wil has enjoyed his marriage to the lovely Cherry Davis of Houston, TX. They have four children; Jordan, Anthony II, Brooke and Alex and 4 grandchildren.

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.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Oklahoma City, OK in 2025 will be on Monday, January 20. The Oklahoma City Martin Luther King, Jr. Alliance will host the annual parade at 2 PM,

starting at the corner of Sixth and Walker in downtown Oklahoma City. The parade's theme is “Show Love” and will include performers, floats, marchers, and strong groups. The parade is free to attend. The Alliance will also host other events and activities throughout the city to celebrate the holiday. The University of Central Oklahoma will also participate in a day of service in conjunction with the parade.

More information regarding the parade route and other activities can be found on the MLK Alliance website at www.okcmlkalliance.org. You can also contact Events Chair, William Jones at (405) 306-8440 or Events Co-Coordinator Monica Murrell at (405) 822-3274.

Fusion News!

By Reverend DeAndra Stevenson

Tis the season for giving!! Fusion partnered with the Salvation Army on 2 occasions in December to raise money and to give back. On December 14th St. John members and friends rang the infamous red bell at Hobby Lobby on Memorial Rd. On December 21st dinner was prepared and served at the Red Door Diner. We were glad to have representation from Children & Youth, Fusion, and VIP ministries.

Thank you to everyone that came out and supported. We had a blast!



You Tell Us ...
We Tell Them.

Greetings!

By Reverend Cherryll E. Doughty

Special shout out to Deacon White for ordering and loading the turkeys and leading the food giveaway in my absence for December! Thank you especially to Ted Saxton and Byron Gallo-way for donating and loading turkeys to the food pantry. I cannot forget our Pastor who was instrumental in making sure the giveaway was a success! Thank you thank you! Thank you to

Josiah and his friends who showed up and showed out helping in a major way!! Thank you, Sharan, and Pat, for all you do to assist the food pantry! Thank you to everyone who helped members, deacons, deaconesses, and DST volunteers. Thank you, Deacon Dade and his crew, for being faithful every first Thursday, picking up the food from the food bank; and to the

ladies who diligently stock the shelves. The food pantry continues to be grateful for the, behind the scenes, leadership of the Perry's. The pictures over 2024 show how much each one of you care; **THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!** Looking forward to a new year with great possibilities of serving. I welcome you to join us in ministry any second Sat-



urday from 10:00 am to Noon, I guarantee you will receive a blessing and also be a blessing! Happy New Year!



PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Rev. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator

Happy New Year Everyone!!

We thank God for keeping us in 2024 and look forward for his continued blessings in 2025. As a Parish Fellowship Ministry, we want to "Continue to Thrive in 2025!" Our goal is to continue thriving in service to our church as well as the community as a whole.

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 Judy Ashton (birthday is January 17th). Thank you Sis. Deborah and Sis. Judy for all you do. I want to give a "Shout-Out" to our January Deacons, Brothers Theron Perry, Gregory Smith, Ben Lang, and our newest deacon, Bennie Steveson. Thank you for all you do!! We look forward to seeing you each 1st Sunday as we celebrate birthdays each month. Come get your Birthday Sticker and proudly wear it!! And be sure to stop by the PF table in Fellowship Hall to greet your PF Team and receive your ice cream coupon!!

PF HIGHLIGHTS:

• Quarterly Breakfast:

The December Parish Fellowship Quarterly Breakfast was enjoyable...over 70 members were in attendance. Rev. Cornelious Wade blessed us with a message entitled "Throw Jonah Over Board". Special thanks to October, November and December Parish Fellowship months, Bro. Rudie Valentine, Rev. Dawson and our Deacons. The quarterly breakfast continues to be a great fellowship. The next breakfast is scheduled for March 2, 2025.

• December PF In Action:



Quarterly Breakfast – Oct-Dec Months Meal Prep Crew



Quarterly Breakfast – Oct-Dec Serving Crew



Rev. Wade delivering the message "Throw Jonah Over Board"

I want to commend the December PF for serving all month long....serving with the Food Pantry, preparing and serving meals for the Refreshing Hour;

as well as giving leadership to the Year-Round Prayer Call. December PF, you have represented well.

• Christmas Gifts to our



Deborah Glover



Judy Ashton

Sick & Shut-in: For Christmas, the Parish Fellowship reached out and touched our sick and shut in members again this year. On December 21st, the PF gathered together and prepared the gift bags, which included Poinsettia plant, fruit goody bags

("Parish Fellowship" continued on page 6)

LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!



“Seasoned Saints” Ministry

Submitted by Velma James Smith



Full House



Lady J Fellowshiping



Guest Entertainment

Time is truly filled with swift transitions. God has blessed us to see a new year! The VIPs welcome 2025 with joy, hope and great expectations.

Thanks to everyone for your support and participation in all Seasoned Saints events in 2024. Wonderful memories were made at OKC Thunder spring and fall games. No one will forget their first-time train ride to Fort Worth, Texas or watching the spectacular light show after the Dodger ball game.

In September, we celebrated our Annual VIP Day. As expected, we experienced

a Holy Ghost filled worship service anchored by our guest speaker, Pastor Emeritus R. Chester Gulley. Our annual day climaxed with a scrumptious luncheon in the beautifully adorned fellowship hall. (Thank you Rudie Valentine, Social Services and Lorie Stevens and Robin Washington, decorating committee.)

The Healthy Aging Conference held September 14th was very well attended. The event was a joint venture with the St. John Nursing Corps. The speakers were outstanding. We could have used more time for Q & A's. Dr. Vivian Wilson and Craig

Dawson presentations were on four concerning health issues that affect seniors, and how to address them: heart failure, diabetes, hypertension, and kidney failure. Herb Magley expounded on Alzheimer awareness. Attendees ranted and raved about apple walnut salad we ate for lunch. It was delicious. Thank you to all the vendors who also contributed to the conference's success.

We ended 2024 with our VIP Annual Christmas Gathering. Special music, fabulous food, and fantastic fellowship. All Praises to God!

(“Parish Fellowship” continued from page 5)



December PF serving during Refreshing Hour



Mary Robinson, Quincy Stidham, Angelia Wilson & Billy Ray serving dinner @ the Salvation Army



Sis Ella Hawkins receives her PF Christmas Gift

with Christmas card. Remembering our sick and shut-in is truly a labor of love....a total of 60 bags were delivered. I want to thank all who participated, and especially PF coordinators who went the extra mile and sorted fruit and nuts for the congregation at large.

• **Baptizing & RHOF:** We had no baptizing's in December but the following individuals received the RHOF in December: 1) Ronnie Davis- February; Barbara Davis - October; and Marketta McDonald - January.

• **Salvation Army – Serving those in Need:** As our commu-

nity service project this holiday season, PF and the BRIDGES ministry combined and volunteered to serve meals at the Salvation Army. This organization is committed to housing those who are homeless; and to feeding those who are hungry. The call was issued for help, and we were compelled to respond. Each of the 100+ individuals who came through the line was told “God Loves You.....God Bless You”. It was quite an experience. It was our pleasure to serve. “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink” Matt 25:35.

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, Deacon James Harris

A blessed service, rendered by the church

SOUTH TO FIRST STREET

The Beacon

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

Staff

Debra Johnson • Diana Bell • Lamonica Parker



Social Media Volunteer Needed

The church is in need of responsible/committed volunteers to work with Rev. Marcus Carruthers in updating and maintaining our social media accounts. If you are skilled and interested in serving in this area, please contact Rev. Marcus Carruthers at (479) 263-8363.

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.

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



Commit to Make a Difference: Vote!

Submitted by Sis. Mae Burge

On February 11, 2025, Oklahoma City Residents will choose a Councilperson for Wards 3 and 7; a County Commissioner for District 1; and a School Board Chairperson. A forum is currently being planned at St. John for late January to host all candidates for these positions.

A Political Forum will be Tuesday, January, 21, @ 6 pm here at St. John in the M L Jemison Conference Center. Please plan to attend forums here at St. John and around Oklahoma City to educate yourself about each candidate and current issues. Information about each candidate can be found at ballotpedia.org, or okvoterportal.com. This is your opportunity to hear their position on issues that affect your local community and the state. Make forums work for you and your community:

- Research candidates prior to attending forums then come prepared to ask questions and expect answers
- Get contact information for each candidate and let them know that you and your neighbors plan to hold them accountable for promises made during their campaign
- Let candidates know of specific needs in your community
- Remember the promises; then follow-up on the promises
- Keep the lines of communication open with those who are elected:

- o If they follow thru with promises, "Say Thank You;
- o If promises are not kept, ask for a plan with a timeline;
- o Follow-up

Voting in local elections is your opportunity to affect change at the local, state and federal levels of government. Candidates for state and federal positions generally start their political career at the local level so "VOTE" like your future depends on it, because it does.

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

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**YEAR-ROUND
PRAYER**

*"The Church That Prays together
Stays Together"*

Mon-Fri @ 7am for 15 minutes

CALL-IN

Now-Ask-1081 or 669-275-1081

**HOPE
PRISON
MINISTRY**

*"...I was in prison, and you visited me."
— Matthew 25:36*

**"HELPING OTHER
PEOPLE EXCEL"**

CONTACT:
EVANGELIST BETTY WINTERS

