

#### THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

May • 2024 (405) 478-3344

#### The Pastor's Pen

Beloved Members,

Trust all is well with you and the family.

Let me take a moment to salute all the wonderful Mothers of our Church Family. Your life and love have been and remains a beacon that shines brightly in our hearts. It is my prayer that Mother's Day will bring to you the joy and happiness you so richly deserve. May the flowers, cards, dinner dates and presents remind you of just how valuable you are to those who are the beneficiaries of your love. You will always be special and precious in our sight. This day, Mother's Day, is the day we have set aside to adorn you with the fragrance of our love and gratitude. HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!!!

Below is a word of encouragement I trust blesses your life for days to come:

#### **Perfectly Made**

Who you are as a mother, a woman, a sister, or a daughter is not an accident. You have been handcrafted to fit intricately into the lives of the people around you. Feelings of inadequacy can overwhelm you as you find yourself faced with tasks you do not feel equipped for. On any given day, you need to instill kindness, ensure your home is peaceful, manage the laundry, counsel the children, maintain the schedule, or do your job well. You might feel entirely unfit for the job you have been



Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor

given. Does the clay say to the potter, "What have you made"? Does the clay question the potter's ability to form it into a perfectly functional and beautiful vessel? You are the work of a master potter, with perfect skills and unlimited resources. He has made you specifically for this job, at this time. You are the work of his hands. When you feel inadequate, you can place your confidence in the fact that he created you perfectly. He knew what your life would look like, and he knew what you would need to walk through your days.

May The Lord Richly Bless and Keep You!

Pastor



## 21st Century Christian-Focus of Deaconess Activities for May 2024

Submitted by the Combined Deaconess Ministry

With the 21st Century nearly a quarter behind us, the Deaconess Ministry thought it an appropriate time to think about new beginnings. As Deaconess, we prayed about what God wanted us to do and what our role needed to be to have the biggest impact on God's program. The theme scripture, John 12:26 MSG, says "If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves." St. John Deaconess want to become better equipped to serve and do a better job at service.

The Deaconess Annual Day is the first of several events to build a foundation for new beginnings. This year the Deaconess Annual Day will be celebrated May 12, 2024 on Mother's Day. We are praying for and anticipating a spirit filled worship service, which will consist of the dedication of babies added to St John families during the year, the announcement of the Mildred Fish Scholarship recipient, the recognition of Deaconess member(s) who have provided



Sister Debra L. Johnson

exemplary service, and the introduction of Deaconess in training.

Consistent with our intent on new beginnings is our speaker selection. The speaker for the hour is Sister Debra L. Johnson, current Parish Fellowship Coordinator, and former St. John Youth Minister. Sister Johnson is embarking on a new beginning as she has accepted her calling to preach. Sister Johnson was born in Greensboro, North Carolina to Ida Mae James and Booker T. Couch. She attended elementary and high school in Grandfield, Oklahoma, enjoy-

("Deaconess Activities" continued on page 2)

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

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

## Is God in Control of Your Family?

One would have to be living under a rock to be unaware that the family is in serious trouble. It has been well observed that the family is the backbone of the nation. The high divorce rate and the rise of juvenile delinquency are indicators of the present deterioration taking place in the family. All agree there are serious problems, but what is the answer? How can the current problems be solved, and future problems averted? Since God is the author of the family, let us allow Him to tell us about the laws of

having a successful family (Gen. 2:21-25).

First off families must recognize God's authority. God is the founder of the family; he has the right to instruct us as to how to have a productive family. Notice one of the first commands God issued: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be of one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). I am told that over 90% of American families own at least one Bible, but how many recognize God's authority in the family?

Secondly men and women need to acknowledge the indissolubility of marriage. Needless to say, divorce is a destroyer of the family. Divorce usually sets a pattern for the children of broken homes to mimic. Today, divorce is obtained for every reason under the sun. Many religions no longer teach against divorce. Did you know that there is only one cause for divorce taught in the New Testament? That one cause is adultery (Matt. 5:32; 19:9). Beloved, children need and deserve a stable home. Regarding mar-



riage, Jesus said: "... What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder: (Matt. 19:6). Many today do not even have the decency to marry – more and more simply cohabit like animals. Into such an atmosphere they selfishly bring innocent children!

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("Deaconess Activities" continued from page 1)

ing interests of singing, sports, and art. Sister Debra's Christian development started early as she learned and served under her late grandfather, Rev. Robert Lee James. Accepting Christ at age twelve, she felt and enjoyed a keen awareness of God. As a teen she loved reading Bible studies, winning prizes for her Bible knowledge and serving as a children's teacher in that small church.

Sister Debra recommitted her life to Christ at age twentythree and was re-baptized at St. John. Since her renewed commitment she has served as a member of the St. John Senior Choir, the WMU, and Sunday School. Her passion to teach and develop young people led her to volunteer with the youth and to her later becoming Youth Minister, a role where she effectively served for seventeen years. Under her leadership as the youth minister, the youth engaged in various activities including Youth Explosion lockins, WOW Youth Camp, trips to the Progressive Baptist Convention, and Branson. Sis Debra fondly recalls the popular and

effective outreach program, Get Crunk for Christ (GCC) concert series where many youth accepted Christ. The youth program during her tenure, also had educational efforts which helped St. John and other community youth increase their ACT scores resulting in more college opportunities.

Sister Johnson obtained her bachelor's degree from Southern Nazarene University. Sister Johnson studied at Oklahoma Christian University, School of Theology in 2010 and is currently attending Haskins College School of Christian Education. She has completed the Bethel Bible Study twice.

As Parish Fellowship Coordinator, Sister Johnson desires to show love, meet member 's needs, and ensure members stay connected to the church fellowship. Her goal and desire is to share the Gospel of Christ; to lead the people of God toward living a victorious life; to prepare souls for Christ's return; and to yield her time/talents in service to God's people until He comes. Most recently, Sister Johnson served with others in the creation of the new "BRIDGES" mid-life ministry, intended to meet all the afore-mentioned goals for the mid-life members of the congregation.

Sister Debra married Rickey James Arnett Johnson at St. John. She said this union resulted in her best thing, her daughter Ms. Ashley Yvonne Johnson.

Sister Debra loves God's word. She says she's "no ways tired" in ministry and believes she's just getting started looking forward to how God leads and directs in the future, certainly a new beginning.

## Calling All Women! 21st Century Christian Deaconess and Stewardess Conference

This is a special invitation to all Christian Women to attend the 21st Century Christian conference to be held May 16-17, 2024. The conference presenters are nationally renowned writer, speaker, teacher, trainer Sister Frances "Fran" Jones, author of five books on the serv-

ing as a Deaconess in the Baptist Church and her daughter, Deaconess Deborah Jones. They will lead participants to a deeper understanding of roles as Christian women and help equip participants for work in the pews and in communities.

The New Testament shows women as managers of their household and their roles as wives and mothers. Today's women are not only wives and mothers, yet also successful leaders in education, finance, the medical fields, politics, etc.

Roman 16:1-2 1. I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church of Cenchrea.2. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me.

We, too, can be witnesses to our neighbors and communities. Join us as our speakers/teachers share this theme and shows us how to live as Christian Women in this season. We look forward to an exciting, anointed, spirit filled fellowship with you.

## **EVANGELISM MINISTRY**

Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister

## BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HUNGER AND THIRST....THEY SHALL BE FILLED

BORROWING FROM THE BEATITUDES, MATTHEW 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled;...AND THEN AT MATTHEW 5:16, "LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN." Our commendations, salutations, and thanks to our St. John Missionary Baptist Church Family and Friends. Your generous gifts allow us to meet the need and to physically show forth the love of God. You continue to give quality goods and we show excellence in meeting the needs of the Northeast Oklahoma City Community and beyond.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024, WE HAD A TOTAL OF 60 ADULTS WHO SIGNED IN. Men were more evident in this crowd. One man was super happy to find tennis shoes sized 13 and 14. Just so you know Annie, size 11 and 12(s) were also a big hit. The Big Bear of a man, shopping with his mother, took great delight in a red suit. A very robust, deep coffee-colored elderly man, leaning forward, shopped for his son who was size 34 for pants. I was glad I resisted telling him where the large men sizes were. A white brother shared—after 2 years, he is still recovering from his divorce. The white brother was shopping for shirts and pants. he rode a bike to come to St. John and received food and clothing.

IN THE END, WE HAD BLACKS, WHITES, HISPANICS, AND ASIANS. We had plenty of children, men and women of every age, and teenagers. Ardenna took care of the water, thanks. Shirlee brought doughnuts. We had chips, and a healthy snack, Welch's fruit snack, for those who got hungry while shopping. Again, I love the "BEATITUDES", because they alert us that we can be blessed, happy, and supplied if we look beyond our circumstances and always look to God. ST. JOHN IS BLESSED TO HAVE ITS LIGHTS ON AND SHINING, GOD CONTINUES TO MAKE US A SOURCE OF BLESSING!!!

THANK YOU TO OUR APRIL DONORS! Terrell Jackson, Janet Jackson, Tosha & Hezekiah Miles, Greg & Vernetta Demartra, Brade & Jenail Willis, Jennie Membre, Ella Grissom, Janet & Ray McCormick, Carol Walker, Shelia Edwards, Malcolm

("Christian Education" continued from page 2)

I recently visited a couple who was thinking about getting married. They began sharing with me about their understanding of marriage and the question of "love" came up. One of them quickly turned to the other and asked the other partner; you know, we have never asked each other if we love one another. Needless to say, they had no idea about what true biblical love is all about. No wonder our world is confused!

When a family is built on God's word, it has a lasting foundation which can stand the storms of life (Matt. 7:24-28). How is your family? I want you to consider getting your entire family into some form of Christian education here at St. John, Believe me, once you know God's purpose for your life, life becomes manageable, call the church to arrange getting your family involved.

Stoughtenborogh, Loveta Hammonds, Diane Glenn. **DID I MISS ANYONE? LOVE YOU ANYWAY, REMIND THIS OLD MAN AND THANK YOU!** 

THANK YOU TO OUR SATURDAY TEAM, THE SORTERS, AND THE BUS DRIVER! Wanzetta Woody, Lisa Shelton, Ardenna Harris, Curry Harris, Shirlee Tomlin, Judy Rackett, and Tamique Perry.

A SHOUT TO THE VERY EXCELLENT USHERS! ALWAYS LOOKING GOOD AND UP TO THE TASK! To Stella Lee, our President, and all the Ushers, my personal thanks, and the thanks of our Pastor, Dr. M.L. Jemison, and thanks for the Church Family, goes to you. THANK YOU FOR SERVING OUR GUESTS WITH A SMILE! Thank you for making sure visitors receive our St. John Missionary Baptist Church Family Visitor Bag.

WE ARE GLAD TO CHEER FAMILY SUPPORT IN THEIR WELLNESS CONFERENCE WITH 50 ST. JOHN PENS, FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024.

THANK YOU, ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY, FOR SUPPORTING THE BAPTIST MINISTER ASSOCIATION, DR. M. L. JEMISON, PRESIDENT. New Hope Baptist Church, BLOCK PARTY FOR CHRIST, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024, AT 6:30 PM. We were represented by Kevin & Lillian Smith, their daughters—Lillie Mae, Leia, Jacqueline, Keziah, Barbara Friday Ross, Annie Friday, Latrese Hammon. KID CAFE FOOD GIVE AWAY, QUIN SANDERS, PROPRIETOR, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024, 10:00 AM. TO 1:00 PM. St. John was ably represented by Reverend Cornelius David Wade and given credit for doing the work of 4 young people. Other Churches that participated included Faith Baptist Church, New Hope Baptist Church, Holy Temple Baptist Church, ETTA Phi Beta Sorority. The Groups served 180 persons representing families and received a Gospel track.

PRISON MINISTRY CONTINUES....BERRY HOUSE...REVEREND CORNELIUS DAVID WADE...MABEL BASSETT...REVEREND BETTY WINTERS AND TEAM...LEXINGTON ADULT MEN...REVEREND MARCUS CARRUTHERS.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU ST. JOHN AND LOVE YOU MADLY!!!



#### PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Sis. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator

Happy May!!.... And Happy Mother's Day to all Mom's!! Your children shall rise and call you "blessed". Proverbs 31:28-31.

#### PF HIGHLIGHTS:

- The PF will support the VBS-2024 Family Fun Day scheduled for Saturday, June 1st from 11am till 2pm. Calling on all PF months to volunteer in some capacity to support this spectacular day of fun and fellowship. We are asking God to shine on that day with good weather. Kudos to our Children & Youth Ministers, Rev Keith & Sis. Linda Carter for their leadership and Sis. Tasha Miles for her untiring efforts with VBS.
- The PF support of the Refreshing Hour is still going strong. Dr. Kirk continues to conduct bible study, and Rev. Brian Eakers preached on the 4th Wednesday on the topic "Ordained Decisions". Along with Bro Rudie Valentine, there was representation from April PF coordinators, deacons and group leaders the entire month helping prepare meals and serving our members during the Refreshing Hour. I want to thank Sis. Stella Lee and our April Deacons for their leadership to April PF.
- <u>Baptisms & Right Hand of Fellowship</u> (RHOF)

There were no Baptisms or RHOF for April. PF, be sure to reach out to these members and welcome them the family of God and to St. John.

#### • HAPPY BIRTHDAY – CELEBRAT-ING ONE FULL YEAR!!

IT'S A MAJOR HIT!! The PF has been celebrating member birthdays for a full year now!! We started celebrating birthdays by giving out birthday stickers and Braum's ice cream coupons in May, 2023. So pleased to celebrate and serve our members in this way. Thank you Pastor & Finance Team for supporting this treat for our members.

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

Let's give a birthday "shout-out to Sis. Shelia Edwards (Birthday May 10th) and Sis. Flora Herbison (Birthday May 23rd). Thank you Sista's Shelia and Flora for all do. I also want to also give a special "Shout-Out" to our May Deacons, Brothers Brade Willis, Leland Kennedy, Jeff Washington, and Rudolph Tomlin, Consultant. Thank you for all you do!! We look forward to seeing you each 1st Sunday as we celebrate your birthday 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 cou-



Sis. Stella Lee and April workers giving out Birthday coupons to Braums.



Sis. Sandra Wallace & Sis. Evelyn Nixon serving for April.



Deacons enjoying The Refreshing Hour Fellowship.

pon!!

PF, please continue to be in prayer for those on the sick and shut-in list. It is our goal that each member of St. John be contacted monthly by their Parish Fellowship No or Group Leader. If you are not being contacted, please let us know so we can make adjustments to ensure you are connected to you and you to us monthly. Blessings to all!!





Bro. Rudie relaxing and enjoying the fellowship – rarely seen!





Sister Shelia Edwards



Sister Flora Herbison

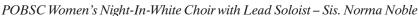
#### LOVE IN ACTION - THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!

## WMU Highlights

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

## **Happy Month of May!**







Left to Right – 2nd VP Travessa Jones – 1st VP Fran Johnson – President Kim Tomlin

The St. John Women's Missionary Union is SO excited to extend Happy Mother's Day prayers and greetings to ALL of the Mothers of St. John! The St. John WMU celebrates YOU!

In the month of April, the St. John WMU thoroughly enjoyed celebrating our Children and Youth Ministry on Easter Sunday attending the Simultaneous Revival. We supported our WMU Sisters in bereavement and we attended the Annual POBSC Night-In-White, which was held at Faith Memorial Baptist Church. Our very own Sis. Kim Tomlin, serving as President of the POBSC Women's Department, facilitated this Annual event.

During the month of May, the WMU will continue to support the activities that the women of St. John are involved in. We will host our Monthly Joint Mission Meeting on Saturday, May 4th at 2pm in the M.L. Jemison Conference Center. We will support *Mother's Day* and we will share love and support with all of our sick and shut-in Mothers. We will support and attend the "*Deaconess and Stewardess Workshop*" scheduled for Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 18th here at St. John. This Conference is open to ALL women and the Facilitator, Sis. Fran Jones is simply fantastic! Be sure to register through the Deaconess Ministry.

The St. John WMU is still enrolling new members. Feel free to call the church office at 405-478-3344 for our schedule of Mission Meetings. As always, we solicit your prayers and your tangible support.

Blessings to you!

## **Greetings!**

By Rev. Cherryll E. Doughty

April showers bring May flowers, and we are fast approaching May, when the Grief & Loss/Marriage and Family Support will serve the Food Pantry on May 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. A special thanks to the volunteers who showed up in April. Not pictured is Kevin Smith, who also assisted. We served over 60 families.

Thank you to the faithful deacons who delivered the food for the pantry and the committed ladies who stocked the



shelves. Remember, if you are looking for fun, fellowship, and stewardship, the Food Pantry is the place to be every <u>second</u> Saturday at 10:00 a.m. We would love to see you! Deacon and Deaconess Perry, we are greatly appreciative of your continual service!

**Shalom and Blessings!** 



Fusion Ministry who served Food Pantry in April 2024



## "Seasoned Saints" Highlights

Submitted by Velma James Smith





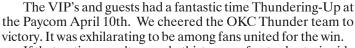
Paycom Sign: St John Seasoned Saints Recognized



Rev. Winters and Irene Edwards: Fun socializing



Group shot with Cecile: Enjoying the Game



If that outing wasn't enough, thirty-one of us took a train ride to Dallas/Ft. Worth April 20th to attend the Art's Festival. We did not let the rain overshadow our fun day fellowshipping. Most of us had never ridden a train before!

The Seasoned Saints will be supporting the Deaconess May 12th as they celebrate Mother's Day on their annual day. In June, we are asking as many who can to support the Vacation Bible School and especially volunteer June 1st on Family Fun Day.

Our mission is to encourage all Seasoned Saints to stay actively engaged in corporal worship services, community outreach, and all St. John Kingdom Building endeavors.



Conductor in aisle: All Aboard!



Sleeping passenger: Relaxing on train



#### PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton

## The Glory of God



"May he be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and even through endless ages." —Ephesians 3:21

There is no more wonderful image in nature of the glory of God than we find in the starry

heavens. Telescopes have long discovered the wonders of God's universe. By means of photography, new wonders of that glory have been revealed. A photographic plate fixed below the telescope will reveal millions of stars which otherwise could never have been seen by the eye. Man must step to one side and allow the glory of the heavens to reveal itself. The stars, first wholly invisible, will leave their image on the plate.

What a lesson for the soul that longs to see the glory of God in His Word. Let your heart be as a photographic plate that waits for God's glory to be revealed. The plate must be prepared and clean; let your heart be prepared and purified by God's Spirit. "God blesses those who hearts are pure, for they will see God" (Matthew 5:8). The plate must be immovable; let your heart be still before God in prayer. The plate must be exposed for several hours to receive the full impression of the farthest stars; let your heart take time in silent waiting upon God, and He will reveal His glory.

If you keep silent before God and give Him time, He will leave within your impressions that will be as the rays of His glory shining in you.

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.

# VBS-2024 "O Taste and See that the Lord is Good" – Ps. 34:18

Submitted by Tasha Miles



The first week of June is quickly approaching; and the Vacation Bible School (VBS) staff is excited to share God's goodness with our many students. Our theme this year comes from *Ps. 34:8* – *O Taste and See that the Lord is Good. O the Joys of those who take refuge in Him.* 

Through a series of engaging lessons and exciting arts and activities, students will learn about God's love and His promises. Amongst all the chaos in the world, children and youth will be reminded that God is in Control. Then they will Go Viral with what they learned so that others will want to Taste and See that the Lord is Good.

There will be adult classes for both men and women. The men will be engaged with bold topics. Mrs. Jacque Jemison will lead a dynamic class with high praise, God's Word, and door prizes.

On Saturday, June 1, 2024, the VBS staff is partnering with the Parish Fellowship ministry to host its Annual Family Fun Day from 11:00-2:00pm. We encourage you to bring your lawn chairs while you enjoy food, games, and music. This is free to the public; and we encourage you to invite some friends.

<u>VBS Schedule – June 1, 3 – 5, 2024</u>

Saturday, June 1 – Family Fun Day

Monday, June 3 – Wednesday, June 5 – Learning Sessions, Arts & Crafts, Group Activities

Dinner will be served each day from 5:30 – 6:30pm Men and women classes from 7:00pm – 8:30pm

It takes a lot of people to put on the VBS activities. We ask that you join the staff by volunteering your time. If you are unable to volunteer, the staff ask for your continued prayers for great weather, safety, resources, and souls saved during the VBS week. All interested in helping us with VBS 2024, contact Tasha Miles 600-8501 or email simbcokc.vbs@gmail.com.



## **May Anniversaries**

Perry, Tamique — May 1, 1993 — 31 years Shepherd, Charles & Jerri — May 1, 1981 — 43 years Brown, Denae — May 3, 2014 — 10 years Taylor, Iowana — May 11, 1999 — 25 years Willis, Brade & Jenail — May 19, 1990 — 34 years Newton-Whitaker, Wilma — May 24, 2023 — 1 year Walker Jr., Theodore & Carole — May 25, 1965 — 59 years Simmons, Janara — May 28, 2021 — 3 years

## **Voters Booth**

By Mae Burge

It is your RIGHT and RESPONSIBILITY as an American, age 18 or older, to REGISTER and VOTE!

Registration and Election dates for Oklahoma County are listed below. Please post these dates in a place easily accessible to you and other voters in your home. Share the dates with other voters in your life. Registration and Election dates for other counties can be found on the Oklahoma State Election Board website or OK Voters Portal.

## Thank You! Thank You!

Pastor Jemison, Rev. Dawson, Sis Floyd & Our St. John Family,

Thank you for your prayers, cards & calls during the passing of our cousin, Clarence Holland, Jr. His daughter Chinique Quay Brown and brother Charles Bell. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

DeSota & Diane Bell & Family

Pastor Jemison, Rev. Dawson, WMU & St. John Missionary Baptist Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. I am truly blessed. Thank you for covering me. *Kim Tomlin* 

Thank you. Whether you kept us in your thoughts and prayers, sent a lovely arrangement, bought us a delicious meal, gave a memorial donation, or helped out in any way, your love and kindness brought us great comfort and will always be remembered. *Larry & Renee Liddell & Family* 

You Tell Us ... We Tell Them.

ST. JOHN MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH
FROMULY

SATURDAY - JUNE 1,2024
11AM - 2PM

Get ready for a day of bonding, making memories, and enjoying a wide range of fun-filled activities. Here's what you can expect:

Train
Rides
Petting
Zoo

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Oklahoma City, OK Permit No. 1441

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