

# The St. John Beacon

THE CHURCH THAT BELIEVES IN LETTING THE LORD DO IT

November • 2024

(405) 478-3344

## The Pastor's Pen

*Beloved Members,*

Our fellowship continues to grow. The congregation continues to give birth to new ministries.

The aura and atmosphere of the church radiates with the sweet nectar of God's presence.

Yes, there is a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, and I know it is the presence of the Lord.

Each Sunday morning, we are blessed with the presence of visitors, many of which are now members, who are just blown away with the quality and spiritual depth of the morning worship service.

And the good news is that eyes have not seen, nor ears hear what great things God yet has in store for His church.

I want to encourage you to embrace this new and fresh opportunity the Lord has given to make our witness known in a meaningful way.

We have in no way reached our potential, but we are definitely taking the necessary steps towards improvement.

The only thing that beats a good start is a strong finish. Let's finish this church year strong!

During this month of November, we have several meetings and programs. Chief among them is Homecoming Sunday. This is always the crown jewel of the year. Our sons from



*Dr. Major L. Jemison, Pastor*

across the state and nation spend the entire day electrifying our hearts with The Word of God.

Think about it!!! We will celebrate 105 years of meaningful and progressive existence in this city, state, and nation.

There are so many lives (young and seasoned) whose journey has been enriched by the ministry provided by this church.

It makes my heart shout with joy when I think about just how good the Lord has been.

There is no other explanation for the stature and stamina we presently have as a church family.

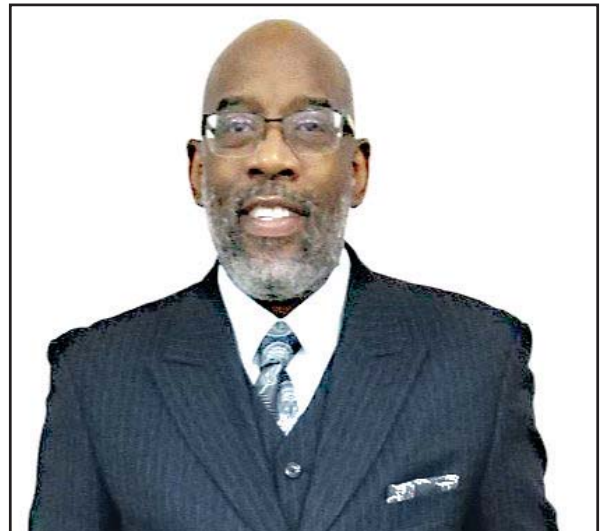
We continue to move from one good degree of grace to another.

St John, we have come this far by faith: **leaning on, depending on and trusting in the Lord.**

To God be the glory for the marvelous things He has done for us!!

Onward and Upward Together  
**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!**  
*Pastor*

## Home for Homecoming – 2024



*Rev. Alton Blakely, Pastor  
Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Denison, Texas*

St. John, the time is drawing near. On Sunday, November 24, 2024, the St. John Church family will celebrate our 105th Church Anniversary and Homecoming. On this third Sunday in November, all St. John members, former members, Sons in the ministry, friends and loved ones will come together and return to the "Old Landmark" to celebrate God's blessings in our lives. We want you to "Come Home for Homecoming!!"

The speaker for the 10:45 am worship service will be Rev. Alton Blakely, Pastor of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church of

Denison, Texas.

Bro. Rudie Valentine and the Social Department staff are preparing the traditional homecoming dinner to be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately after morning worship. Parish Fellowship will also deliver meals to our sick and shut-in members....they will not be forgotten!

Mark your calendars now, and plan to join us for the wonderful homecoming fellowship on Sunday, November 24, 2024. For more information or to request transportation, please call the Church office at 405-478-3344.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Submitted By Rev. David Lounds, Director of Christian Education*

### Are You Thankful?

As we approach the Holidays one thing that stands out in my mind is our need to be thankful. While the Thanksgiving Holiday is not a Biblical mandate our need to be thankful puts us in the proper frame of mind to continually pray and worship. To keep me focused on what God wants from me throughout the year I try to match Biblical references with seasons we see through the year. With that in mind there are four Scriptures which are intended to help us develop an attitude of gratitude.

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:18:** "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will

for you in Christ Jesus".

2. **Colossians 3:15:** "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful".

3. **Psalms 100:4:** "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name".

4. **Philippians 4:6:** "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God".

These verses remind us to maintain a spirit of gratitude in all aspects of life. Do you have a favorite verse or a specific con-

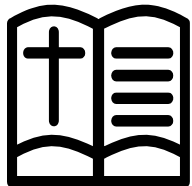
text in which you utilize to express your thankfulness to God? Being thankful keeps us centered on the fact that we are pilgrims on this journey. And although the struggles that we face maybe discomfoting we have to remember that God has not given us life to be comfortable. God has given us life so that we can invest our lives to do the good works that were planned to be completed by us before the foundation of the world. The salvation that God has given to us is useful today. And one way to demonstrate that we are thankful for what God has done is to invest our money, time and



talents in ensuring that the Great Commission is being executed at a high level.

As we continue our journey my hope is that we allow the Spirit of God to order our steps. Guiding us toward ever good work so that we can complete our work of advancing the Kingdom of God.

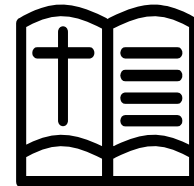
Come Let Us Learn Together.



## PASTOR'S PARTNERS IN PRAYER

*Submitted By Deacon Raymond Payton*

### The Light of His Countenance



"God is light. I John 1:5

The Lord is my light. Psalm 27:1

Every morning the sun rises, and we walk in its light and perform our daily duties. Whether we think of it or not, the light of the sun shines on us all day. Likewise, the light of God shines on His children every morning. But in order to enjoy the light of God's countenance, the soul must turn to God and trust Him to let His light shine in upon it.

Just as you need the light of the sun every hour, so, too, is the heavenly light of the Father's countenance indispensable. If we

expect the sun to rise each day and to receive its light, we can also confidently count on God to let his light shine on us. Make sure that the light of God shines on you as you commune with Him in the morning. Then expect His light to remain with you all day long.

Remember, it is the ardent longing of your heavenly Father that you should dwell and rejoice in His light. So do not rest until you know that the light of His countenance and His blessing is resting on you. Then you will experience the truth of the words. "They will walk in the light of your presence, Lord. They rejoice all day long in your wonderful reputation" (Psalms 89:15-16).

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.



### November Anniversaries

Langs, Ben & Gwinetta — November 5, 1996 — 28 years  
Brewer, Michael & Patricia — November 20, 1999 — 25 years  
Turner, Ernest & Espenola — November 26, 1966 — 58 years  
Perry, Theron & Cleo — November 28, 1958 — 66 years

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

## EVANGELISM MINISTRY

*Submitted by Rev. Cornelious Wade, Evangelism Minister*

# GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER...PSALM 118:1

**“GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,  
FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE EN-  
DURES FOREVER....PSALM 118:1**

**CERTAINLY, WE “GIVE THANKS TO  
THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS  
LOVE ENDURES FOREVER”...“HAND  
ME UP(S)”** has been serving the people  
for 3 years now and we stop to thank God  
and thank you, St. John Missionary Bap-  
tist Church Family for your support and  
for the support of our Pastor, Dr. M.L.  
Jemison.

We have been moved by your willing-  
ness to share and the high standards you  
have helped us maintain. As a “Clothing  
Pantry”, “HAND ME UP(S)” IS SECOND  
TO NONE. We thank you and we thank  
God. Saturday, October 12, 2024, we were  
hanging right at 50 participants, old and  
young: Black, Whites, and Hispanics. A  
half dozen children accompanied their par-  
ents, but obeyed Reverend Wade’s rules,  
especially, “NO EATING IN THE AREA  
WHERE THE CLOTHES ARE  
HUNG.” **WHAT WOULD WE DO WITH-  
OUT THE TEAM:** Wanzetta Woody, Judy  
Rackett, Lisa Shelton, Shirlee Tomlin:  
Tamique Perry and Denice Blakely worked  
behind the scenes with the sorting and hang-  
ing clothes. **WE CONTINUE IN PRAYER  
FOR DENICE AND THE BLAKELY  
FAMILY, IN THE LOSS OF HER FA-  
THER, ALFRED BLAKELY.** Wanzetta  
brought breakfast for the team, you need  
more fuel as we organize. Shirlee is regu-  
lar with coffee and doughnuts. Ardenna  
Harris made sure we had plenty water;  
Curry Harris is the main bus man. Nate  
Starks made sure the sign announcing  
“FREE CLOTHING” was hung right on  
time.

**WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT  
THE DONOR/ YOU ARE WONDERFUL  
AND ALWAYS MORE THAN WE COULD  
HAVE EVER EXPECTED:** October 2024  
included: Darin and Yvette Lipscomb,

Andrea Jackson, Loveta Hammond,  
Larcentia Coulter, Zella Sturgeon,  
Latonya Marie Jackson and Marie  
Hardmon, Roshan White and Reverend  
Cherryll Doughty, Larry White, Irene  
Edwards, Kathy Simpson, Tasha Miles  
and Elijah Miles, Glenda Mumford, Lisa  
Anderson, Lorie and Paul Stephens,  
Theresa and Richard Perkins, Ann Brown,  
Annelda Dade, Terrell Marshall,  
Lawrence and Alice Myers. A special thank  
you to the Myers for their sharing, liqui-  
dating Mother Nixon’s home, they supplied  
a half a dozen families with furnishing.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING DOCU-  
MENT OUR VISITORS:** Stephanie Tho-  
mas, Sandra McNeal, Danielle and  
Chantel Goldsmith will be helping docu-  
ment the visitors. Chantel helped us serve  
the peppermint on October 13, 2024.  
**THANK YOU, TEAM, LOOKING FOR-  
WARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024,  
“VOICES OF PRAISE BAPTIST  
CHURCH,** Reverend Tony Wise, Pastor,  
Chairman, Baptist Ministers Association,  
Evangelism; Reverend, Dr. M.L. Jemison,  
President, BMA. Reverend Cornelius D.  
Wade helped facilitate the “CONFER-

**ENCE/TRAINING...DISCIPLES AND  
FISHERS OF MEN.”** Evangelist Rhonda  
Hall Williams and Reverend Debra  
Johnson represented the St. John Family.

**PRISON MINISTRY. MABEL  
BASSETT (WOMEN’S PRISON). SAT-  
URDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024.** Reverend  
David Lounds brought a lesson and Re-  
verend Betty Winters brought the sermon.  
20 women shared the services. The team  
was present...Greg and Carolyn Smith,  
Irene Edwards, Sherri Frederick Level,  
Lolita Wesley. **BERRY HOUSE...Reverend  
Cornelius David Wade taught from the text  
“THROW JONAH OVERBOARD”. The  
lesson continued until October 26, 2024.  
The important thing is Jonah must learn  
to pray and complete the work God has  
sent Jonah to do. LEXINGTON MEN AND  
JOSEPH HALL/ THE JULIUS JONES  
FOUNDATION.** Reverend Marcus  
Carruthers continues this work.

**AGAIN, THANK YOU PASTOR, DR.  
M.L. JEMISON, ST. JOHN MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY, THANK  
GOD FOR ALL THE LOVE AND SUP-  
PORT POURED INTO THESE MINIS-  
TRIES. LOVE YOU MADLY, Reverend  
Cornelius David Wade.**



## PARISH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Rev. Debra Johnson, Parish Fellowship Coordinator

# Happy November Everyone!!



October PF Leaders Renae Gardner, Jenail Willis and Deacon Ernest Helaire. Ready to hand out ice cream coupons to October members.

The Fall Revival was truly wonderful!! We learned how effective one and two words can be. Thank you Rev. F. D. Sampson for blessing us with God's Word as he spoke it to you. We had good attendance each night. Thank you, PF for making your contacts to our members...you are appreciated.

### PF HIGHLIGHTS:

- We are looking forward to our 105th Annual Homecoming. Homecoming is a time of fellowship with members of the past and present. It's always good to hear a message from our sons in the ministry. And of course, we certainly look forward to the wonderful meal prepared by our social department. So, when you make your contact calls this month, be sure to

inform our members about Homecoming on Sunday, November 24th!!

- Year Round Prayer: November Deacons and PF Coordinator, Kim Chaney is providing leadership to our morning prayer in partnership with the Prayer & Visitation Ministry. The prayer call is Monday through Friday from 7am to 7:15am. It happens after PRAYER!!

- The PF support to the Refreshing Hour is still going strong. Rev. Lounds continues to teach from the book of Acts. On Wednesday, October 24th, Rev. David Young blessed us with the preached word from the topic "Something New" taken from Isaiah 43:18-19. Along with Bro Rudie Valentine, there was representation from Octo-

ber Deacons and PF leaders the entire month helping prepare meals and serving our members during the Refreshing Hour. I want to thank Renae Gardner and Jenail Willis for their leadership for October.

- **NOVEMBER MEMBERS,** it's your birthday month and we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!** Let's give a birthday "shout-out to Sis. Kimberly Chaney, November PF Coordinator whose birthday is November 23rd. Thank you Sis. Chaney for all you do. Lastly, giving a special "Shout-Out" to our November Deacons, Brothers Richard Perkins, and Raymond Payton. Thank you for all you do!!

- Baptisms & Right Hand of Fellowship (RHOF)

For November, there were



Sis. Kimberly Chaney

no baptizing or RHOF, however, we have new members going through orientation at this time and will be presented for December. PF, please reach out to these members and add them to your call list.

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 Coordinator 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!!

**LOVE IN ACTION – THAT IS WHAT WE DO!!**

## WMU Highlights

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

What a TREMENDOUS month this has been! The Lord has TRULY blessed the St. John WMU, and we are ETERNALLY grateful to you for your love and support! During the month of October, the WMU participated in the Annual POBSC Prayer Dinner, which was held Saturday, October 5th, where our very own Sis. Kim Tomlin led as the Women's Department President of the POBSC.

The St. John WMU also held our Annual Eula Lee Jackson Women's Day with guest Rev. Vickia Brinkley, Pastor of True Faith Community Baptist Church of Oakland, California. Rev. Brinkley gave us a heartfelt, rousing message! She held a forum for women of the Gospel on Sunday afternoon, affirming the Call of God on their lives.

We have truly been blessed by the Annual Fall Revival, and we look forward with "tip-toe anticipation" to our Annual WMU Bazaar/Pop-up Shop, which will be held on Saturday, November 9th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will have retail vendors and food trucks this year, so please come and support our Bazaar.

The proceeds from the Annual WMU Bazaar/Pop-up Shop are used to provide seed money for mission's activities that support the sick and shut-in of St. John, the Annual Love Baskets, Maisha Project,



*POBSC Prayer Dinner Attendees*

H.O.P.E. Prison Ministry, Annual Fall Festival, Mabel Bassett Christmas Project, and many more, too numerous to mention.

We will begin accepting ministry dues for 2025 starting December 2024. PLEASE give your WMU dues (\$25/year) to your

Circle Chairperson or to Sis. Patricia Brewer.

Again, thank you for your support, love, and prayers. For more information, please do not hesitate to call the church at 405-478-3344 for more information.



*Rev. Brinkley, Pastor Jimison, 1st Lady Jimison*



*POBSC State President, Pastor E.J. Tyson addressing attendees*



# Greetings in the name of Jesus the Christ!

*By Rev. Cherryll E. Doughty*



*Food Giveaway*



*Deacon White*



*Rev. Myles*

“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body, what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” (James 2:15-17)

The Pantry will serve again on November 9, 2024, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm. Partnering with Fine Arts and Social Departments. On December 14<sup>th</sup> the Pantry will serve with Christian Education and with Enrichment Hour. If you are interested in serving, please call Reverend Doughty 816-289-4798. Last month we gave away more than sixty-five (65) bags of food, fresh eggs, peaches, and nectarines. We give God thanks to Bonnie's Helping Hands ministry who donated \$1,000 to the food pantry to help out with the November food giveaway, and to Rev. DeAndra Stevenson for making the connection. Special thanks to Rev. Myles, Diane McDaniel, and Antiffany Fears who showed up to help serve; we could not have done it without you!

Words cannot express my gratitude to everyone who helps serve in the Pantry! May God bless you richly!

Be blessed to be a blessing to others!

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

WEST TO WESTERN

EAST TO BRYANT

## 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.

## The Beacon

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

*Staff*

Debra Johnson • Diana Bell • Lamonika 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.

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



## Thank You! Thank You!

You are a blessing. Pastor Jemison, Rev. Dawson, Rev. Lounds & my St. John Family. Thank you for the prayers, cards, food and monetary donations during my down time from surgery. Leroy and I appreciate everything you've done. We're so thankful to be a part of this church family. I'm still in recoup mood so please keep the prayers going up. Thank you for all you do. God's Blessings Continue....

*Marjorie Harris*

\*\*\*\*\*

My thanks to Pastor Jemison, Rev. Dawson, WMU and many St. John members who offered condolences at the death of my nephew, Larry Baker. I appreciate every show of love and kindness extended to me and my family. Thank you all. Blessings

*Nell Venable*

\*\*\*\*\*

February Parish Fellowship, Mary, Ruby Nichols, James Nichols, Nate & Homer. Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers on my behalf. I appreciate everything you do and have done. My progress is slow but steady. God Bless you all.

*Marjorie Harris*

## The National Election is Over: Now What?

*Submitted by Mae Burge*

Your vote has been cast and counted. Now what? Whether your candidate won or fell short, this is not the end. Your civic duty is far from being complete. We must stay engaged at the local level to ensure we push newly elected and incumbent officials to do the will of the people and NOT the will of their party.

Things that happen at the national level are a direct result of things that happen locally. Most of us fall short of remembering what an elected official promised while campaigning vs their actions after being elected. We MUST do better! Ordinary citizens can control elected officials by actively and publicly holding them accountable. This is harder for those of us in Republican lead states, but it can be done. We must search out current incumbents and new candidates who will do the will of the people. This starts with local elections.



First research and decide along with your neighbors what the needs are for your community, county and the state of Oklahoma. Then make a plan with your community, neighborhood associations, city council, state legislators and county officials. We have good, proactive representation on the Eastside of Oklahoma City. They hold regular town hall meetings to keep us informed and engaged in things in process and planned for Oklahoma City and County. Shame on you, if you have not taken the time to attend these sessions. Preventing the building of the county

*("The National Election" continued on page 8)*



St. John Missionary Baptist Church  
5700 N. Kelley Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
Address Service Requested

*("The National Election" continued from page 7)*

prison in our neighborhood is a good demonstration of what "We the People can do."

Do the research to identify upcoming elections, research the candidates to know what they stand for or against. Democrat or Republican, get involved with the local party, let your wishes be known then work to make it happen. It is too easy to be informed. Turn your TV off and get off of social media 2-3 hours per week. Go to okelections.gov and learn everything you need to know about elections and candidates in the state of Oklahoma. OK Voters Portal also contains information about elections; all of your personal information including where and when to vote as well as if your vote was counted. It is not enough to

say, "we want, or I wish we had". Currently, there are surveys from the city and counties asking residents how to improve their neighborhoods. Bicycle lanes, park improvements and sidewalks in neighborhoods are examples of surveys and the great representation by our local elected officials. We must be committed to helping make things happen in our community. This will

involve all of us and not just two (2) or three (3) people.

I am committed to helping make my community and state a better place to live. How about you? We need volunteers to help the "Voters Booth Ministry" keep you informed. Please give your contact information to Diane McDaniel, Mae Burge or Tiffany McDaniel if you are willing to work.

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



**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**