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ST. JOHN A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 25 Issue 1

January 2020

Happy New Year

New Year's Blessings!

Family, we made it! By the grace of God, we have entered not only another year, but another decade. As we reflect on the past, we are grateful for every experience that we encountered in 2019. Prayerfully, each circumstance caused us to grow closer in our relationship with God and depend on God's power to bring us through. We honor and cherish the memory of our loved ones that transitioned from labor to reward last year, and we are thankful for God's sustaining strength. I salute the life of our beloved Pastor Homer Littlefield McCall, who served this congregation faithfully for more than four decades. It is an honor and a privilege to stand on the rich legacy he leaves behind.

It is important to remember, while we are able to look back with a spirit of gratitude, it is our resolve to keep moving forward. We are assured that just as God provided in the past, He will provide for our future.

The year 2020 is a milestone in the life of our church. This year, we will celebrate our 135th church anniversary and we can say that we have truly come this far by faith. With much prayer and anticipation, we are planning to break ground for our new worship center. Everywhere we look, we are fortunate to see God's blessings and provisions for the ministry. As our church continues to grow, I encourage you to fellowship and get to know the new members of our family. We are blessed to have them as a part of St. John AME Church.

I am humbled at the opportunity to serve this congregation. Thank you for your encouragement and most of all, your prayers for my family and me. My prayer for each of you is that God would bless you "REAL, REAL, REAL GOOD".

In His Service,

Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Servant Pastor

Advent, Preparing Our Hearts and Minds for the Coming of the Messiah

Reverend Donnamarie Brown



In the article What is an Advent Wreath? Meaning of the Advent Wreath and Candles written by Joel Ryan in Christianity.com, Advent is a seasonal tradition often celebrated in the Christian and Catholic faith to prepare for the arrival or coming of Jesus Christ. The advent wreath is used to symbolically commemorate newness, eternal life, and the death and resurrection of the promised Messiah. It is often coupled with the lighting of candles and prayers recited in the weeks leading up to Christmas. (Ryan, 2019)

Advent traditions will vary by country, but the heart behind Advent is mostly the same across cultures and denominations. Derived from the Latin word "adventus", the word advent means "arrival" or "coming". In this instance, it is used to indicate set time(s) during the month of December to commemorate the coming of the Messiah in Jesus Christ. Advent, like Christmas, is a season of expectation, celebration, and hope, connected to the birth of the prophesied Messiah and the promise of Christ's subsequent ministry. (Ryan, 2019)



The Clark Family lighting the Candle of Hope.

Advent wreaths were eventually fashioned out of evergreens, twisted together in a circle to symbolize continuous life across the seasons, from the death of winter to the new life of spring. Naturally, this earthly symbolism also points to the spiritual symbolism of newness and the promise of eternal life and salvation offered through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

The circular nature of the wreath, similar to a wedding ring or band, is further meant to reflect the unending love of Christ and eternal life offered through salvation. (Ryan, 2019)



The Brown and Vasquez Family lighting the Peace Candle.

Holly leaves, berries, and seeds are sometimes added to the Advent wreath as well. Holly leaves can be prickly and therefore used to represent the crown of thorns placed on Jesus's head during his crucifixion. Berries, which are typically red, also point to Christ's sacrifice and the blood shed for sins. Pinecones, seeds, and nuts are also placed within the wreath as a symbol and promise of new life. Together, the elements of the Advent wreath reflect the new life and eternal salvation offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who we now celebrate. (Ryan, 2019)



The Walton Family lighting the Candle of Joy.

The most common tradition, however, typically uses four candles. Each candle is lit on one of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The color of these candles can vary, but it is common that the first, second, and fourth candle is purple, while the third candle is rose-colored, red, or a pinkish hue. In some cases, all the candles are red, blue, or white, and often, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Day itself. (Ryan, 2019)

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Advent, Preparing Our Hearts and Minds for the Coming of the Messiah

Reverend Donna Marie Brown

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In most traditions, the lighting of the four candles (or multiple candles) is meant to be done as a family and will often be used to reflect on the hope, faith, joy, peace, light, and purity that came into the world with the gift of the Messiah. Families will typically light the candle together, often encouraging children to take part in the celebration. Many modern churches light an Advent candle during Sunday services to prepare for Christmas as a church family. (Ryan, 2019)



The Hill Family lighting the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve.



The Adkins Family lighting the Candle of Love.

Regardless of specific Advent traditions and differences in how it is celebrated across cultures and countries, Advent is a time for all believers and families to commemorate the arrival of the Messiah, prepare for his second coming, and celebrate the joy of Christmas together. (Ryan, 2019)

At St. John, five families were selected to light the Advent candles for the four Sundays in December. The five families were the Clark family on Dec. 1st for the HOPE candle, the Brown and Vazquez family on Dec. 8th for the PEACE candle, the Walton family on Dec. 15th for the JOY candle, the Adkins family on Dec. 22nd for the LOVE candle. The Hill family lit the Christ Candle on Dec. 24th for the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service.

Ryan, J. (2019, October 4). Christianity/ Wiki / Holidays / What is an Advent Wreath? Meaning of the Advent Wreath and Candles. Retrieved from Christianity.com: <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/advent-wreath-meaning-of-advent-candles.html>

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Nedra McDaniel



Pastor Wright preaching
"The Sweet Name of Jesus"

Members, friends and family gathered at St. John on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. to welcome the Christ Child with a candlelight service. This evening was the culmination of weeks of preparation for the birth as reflected in the relighting of the Advent candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

The music was led by the St. John Praise Team. The Call to Worship, a responsive reading from the choral postlude "Heavenly Light," was led by Presiding Elder (Retired) Oliver Allen. Sister Lillie Rivers offered prayer and the Reverend Charles Glover read scripture from Matthew 2:1-10. The Marcus Hill family led the lighting of the Christ Candle.

Pastor Wright preached from the texts Matthew 1:21 and Isaiah 9:6 a message entitled "The Sweet Name of Jesus." He began by describing how one's name designates who they are and how names tell family stories. Transitioning to the text, he focused on the name Jesus. He stated that when Christians wear the banner of Jesus, they take on His name. He noted that Jesus was the last person in the Bible to be given a name by God. He connected the name given in Matthew to the five (5) additional names of Jesus given in Isaiah 9:6: Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He explained what each name means in the life of a believer. Concluding, he stated "There are other great names in the Bible, but the name of Jesus is the greatest."

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Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Nedra McDaniel

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Following the message, Pastor Wright led in the lighting of the candles across the sanctuary. Worshippers passed the light until the sanctuary was filled with the glow of candle-light. "Jesus the Light of the World" and "This Little Light of Mine" were sung in a moving display of the real reason for the Christmas celebration.



Christmas Program and Worship Service

B. Johnson

The excitement was building as the St. John congregation moved closer to celebrating Jesus' birth on Christmas Day. The church was decked in the celebratory colors of Christmas, the greens, the reds, and the golds. Every corner of the sanctuary was appointed with various decorations hailing the joyous coming of the Savior. The children were scurrying around in preparation for their performances during the Christmas Program. The parents, grandparents and siblings had arrived early to garner that perfect seat for taking videos and pictures of their child's performance.

The worship service began as usual with a triumphant call to worship, followed by the hymn of praise, "Angels We Have Heard on High." The children were then invited to come forth and share their poems, recitations and Christmas greetings. As



More Christmas Program Participants.



Pastor Wright, II

they took their seats the congregation applauded enthusiastically.

The Christmas sermon was entitled, "Lessons from the Wise Men-Giving, Receiving and Seeking." The scripture reference for this sermon was Matthew 2:11. The Reverend Maurice Wright, II focused on three lessons to be taken from this scripture. The first lesson was, we need to seek wisdom. Wisdom is to know good and do it. It is to know God and know when a fall occurs, He is there to pick us up. Wisdom is knowing that there is a lesson to be learned in every experience. The second lesson was to seek a relationship with God. Getting close to the servant

should be our main priority-which means distancing ourselves from things that distance us from Him. We should draw near with confidence. Finally, the third lesson was just as the Wise Men traveled far to worship the baby who would be king, we too should worship Him. We should remain forever faithful to Him with our service. The Wise men came seeking a Savior, they gave gifts, and they received the blessing of the Baby Jesus. Lessons from the Wise Men-Give, Receive, and Seek.



The Bradford Sisters

Watch Night Service

The Reverend Donnamarie Brown

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, Watch Night, also called Freedom's Eve, is a Christian religious service held on New Year's Eve and is associated, in many African American churches, with a celebration and remembrance of the Emancipation Proclamation (enacted January 1, 1863) which freed slaves in the Confederate states during the American Civil War. Now, many mainline Protestant churches in the United States sponsor a Watch Night service on New Year's Eve (Murray, 2019).

The tradition of Watch Night may be traced to the early 18th century in Moravian churches, when churchgoers began marking the occasion with a vigil to reflect upon the year past and to contemplate the one to come. In the Methodist tradition, John Wesley adopted the practice for his Methodist followers, who held similar vigils monthly with the full moon. It was given a new significance among African Americans on December 31, 1862, when, according to tradition, slaves in the Confederate states gathered in churches and private homes on the night before Pres. Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was expected to go into effect, pending his signing of the document. The soon-to-be-free slaves stayed awake all night and watched the night turn into a new dawn while waiting for news that the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued, thus making all the slaves legally free (Murray, 2019).

Church services on Watch Night generally begin some time between 7:00 and 10:00 PM and end at midnight. The services tend to be attended by family groups. Many attendees go on to New Year's Eve parties afterward (Murray, 2019).

St. John AME Church, like most churches, held the traditional Watch Night Service on December 31st. The service began at 10:00 P.M., and was to conclude at midnight to mark the beginning of the new year. Gathered in the sanctuary were many members and invited friends. Several people from the community were welcomed as they expressed their appreciation for the warm reception they received. They were looking for a church that held a Watch Night Service, saw the cars in the parking lot, inquired about the service and were invited in.

The order of service included testimonies from the congregation. Several members and visitors took the opportunity to share how God had kept them through-out 2019. It was a moving experience. There were tears of happiness, shouts of praise and Hallelujah! A visual presentation by the Media Ministry, captured all the events of the church in review during



Pastor Wright, is singing
"I Won't Complain."

2019. There were moments and reflections of great joy and happiness, coupled with moments of great sadness for the church family. It was a beautiful presentation.

Pastor Wright began his proclamation of the word with a deeply emotional rendition of Reverend Paul Jones' song, "I Won't Complain." There was not a dry eye in the sanctuary. He preached from Genesis 45:20 with the sermon title "Don't Take It With You". Pastor Wright expressed three points for consideration for the new year. First, he stated, to only carry into the new year what we needed or was essential. Secondly, he stressed that we should not carry guilt and unforgiveness into the new year, that these were concepts that should be left behind. Next, we were to not carry worry because as faithful Christians we should trust that God would supply all our needs in 2020. The congregation was truly blessed by the last sermon in 2019.

As the clock counted down to midnight and the changing of the year and the decade, the entire congregation was assembled around the altar in cooperative prayer. We all look forward to the great things God has in store for this church, this congregation and for each other in 2020.

Murray, L. (2019, December 31). *Watch Night Christian Religious Service*. Retrieved from Encyclopedia Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Watch-Night>.

Resolutions vs. Goals

AMEN Staff

Happy New Year! A new year brings with it the thoughts of resolutions, setting goals, making life changes and focusing on transitions for the next 365 days. When asked, most persons say, "I am not making any resolutions this year. I am setting new goals for myself." Well, what is the difference? Are not goals and resolutions the same thing? Are the two words not interchangeable? Do they not mean about the same thing? Actually no, they do not mean the same thing. According to Google, a resolution is a firm decision to do or not to do something. While a goal is the object of a persons ambition or effort, an aim or desired result. So it would appear that it takes a little more effort and determination to fulfill a desired goal than to simply pronounce a resolution. The statistics are available which prove that by the second week of January eighty-two percent of people have already forgotten, failed, neglected or missed the mark with their anticipated resolution. While those who set resolutions have bombed, those who set goals have usually proven to be more successful, especially when a plan is written to accompany those goals.

Much research has shown that establishing SMART Goals; goals which are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based tend to lend themselves to more attainment, than just acting on a resolution. The research also indicates that writing down one's goals and strategically planning for the accomplishment in small steps, only furthers the possibility of success. There is much to be said for the old adage, "a goal is a dream with a deadline."¹ So, now is the time to set your goal, write it down, establish a plan, with a deadline or else it will just be an other dream.

St. John members were asked to share their goals for 2020 with the AMEN NewsStaff. Check it out.



- ◊ My goal is to get through the next semester with passing grades. College Student
- ◊ My goal is to make straight "A's" for the remainder of the school year. High School Senior
- ◊ It is my prayer that in 2020, I will use my gifts of understanding and encouragement to be a blessing to my St. John family through my active engagement in church ministries. It is also my prayer that God will grant me the courage and conviction to better honor my body as a temple of God by exercising, making wise food choices and engaging in self-care activities. By nurturing myself mentally, physically and spiritually, I pray that I will be well prepared to serve others within and outside St. John. College Instructor
- ◊ To earn a 4.0 GPA is my goal for 2020. High School Student
- ◊ My goal for 2020 is to get an athletic scholarship to any college or university. High School Student
- ◊ Cutting back on sweetened beverages and getting more quality sleep is my 2020 goal. Mature Adult
- ◊ Because I have always attended "my church" for Sunday morning service, one of my goals is to attend other churches' Sunday morning services in 2020. Seasoned Saint
- ◊ In 2020, my goal is to get my first manuscript published. Aspiring Author



Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.

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Setting Life Time Goals

2 Corinthians 5:9 (NLT) So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please Him.

At the beginning of the New Year, people tend to make resolutions regarding their health and overall well-being (e.g. financially, relationships, new job or position). Their minds are set on their own ability to use their will power to pull them through the resolution. Unfortunately, the resolutions are broken within 30 days due to changes in their lives which lead to losing focus and motivation to achieve real results. The other problem with setting resolutions is that they are centered on what we want out of life and not on what would be pleasing to God first. Ultimately, our lives belong to Him and it is not about ourselves. Proverbs 16:3 tells us to "Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed."

Instead of making resolutions this year, let us do one thing better – to please God first. It is necessary to set goals that would please God first because the results are life-changing through the help of the Holy Spirit guiding us. First, let us start by setting small goals to learn what the Bible says about what God requires of us to live our lives in a way that would be pleasing to Him. This may include setting a daily devotion time with Him first thing in the morning and reflecting on His Word throughout the day. Second, set some short-term and long-term goals that are specifically centered on pleasing God through our relationship with Him. The Bible mentions a lot of goals and ways to please God. The Word of God tells us how to be good stewards of our body, mind, spirit, finances and relationships. Third, set measurable tasks you can do daily, weekly, or monthly. This step will hold you accountable to God to get the goal done. Third, make your goal to worship God attainable. Habakkuk 2:2 says "Then the Lord said to me, write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others." Remember, you must write down your goals. You are the runner of the goal. You are the carrier of the correct message of God that it is God who is changing your life to others who are struggling with the same goal in their life.

So, what are some of the goals you want to set for yourself that will honor God this year? Proverbs 16:9 also tells us "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps." Let God determine your steps in any goal you set. Honor Him with your life and deepen your relationship with Him this year.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may our goals be pleasing to you as we venture out to set new goals to worship and honor you. Help us to commit our actions to you so we can succeed with the plans you have for our lives. Give us your strength and much success as we continue to build our relationship with you throughout this new year. Thank you for hearing our cry for change in our lives. AMEN

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- ◊ I've always exercised, but my 2020 goal is to increase my exercise routine to 5 days a week. Millennial
- ◊ In 2020 my goal is to push aside some of my selfishness and strive for the patience to listen in silence to the views and opinions of others, especially to the ones I love dearly... Church Leader
- ◊ My goal for 2020 is to trust God to give me good health and strength to accomplish the vision for St. John's new church... Church Leader
- ◊ My primary goal for the 2019-2020 school year is to make all A's... Middle School Student
- ◊ To be good at school and do what my parents ask me to do... Elementary School Student

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Turning Your 2020 Health Goals into Daily Habits

Rosemary Wells

The importance of setting health goals vary between big and small, achievable and maybe far-fetched. When setting goals, it is important to do so in such a way that allows a person to obtain them and naturally weave them into their daily life. To create new habits, it can take up to sixty days to make them stick. Wellness takes practice. It means different things to different people. Being healthy means being peaceful, serene and joyful in one's thoughts and mind. How one responds to events in this wacky world we live determines the stress level we expose ourselves too. Optimal health should always be the desired outcome. However, life can get in the way of making healthy goals habitual.

When a person is stressed or emotionally distressed their heart is one of the first organs in their body that will feel the pain and react. Life will throw those unexpected curve balls at some time or other, so it is critical to sustain those habits. Turn a quest for balance and good health into actionable steps that slowly become routine. Every day, people will set goals to improve their overall wellness. But what if people could take those health goals they are setting and transcend them into daily habits?

Author, motivational public speaker, health/well-being disability advocate, world traveler and artist, Tessa Koller says that if a person has envisioned themselves happier, healthier and more energized; these goals can be obtained. Koller has put together concrete steps which can be taken to help set the 2020 health goals and turn them into daily habits!

1. **Develop a Morning Routine.** How a person begins their day matters tremendously. The way they greet each morning (hopefully with a prayer of gratitude) will determine the kind of mood they will be in the entire day. A morning routine will help ease a person into the day, and start them off on the right foot. If a person has a health goal to have more time in the morning, they should start with fifteen minute increments each day, until they are happy with the time. More time in the mornings means more time and attention to work obligations, and to people they care about the most.
2. **Develop An Evening Routine.** An evening routine can consist of reading, Yoga, cleaning, organizing, or doing exercise. Winding down is critical for mental health management. Come 7:00 or 7:30 pm is when a person might want to start allowing their brain and mind to relax. Their evening routine can entail anything that promotes peace and serenity. Do something relaxing before going to bed. To make a health goal into a habit, set a time to STOP working!
3. **Walk for Thirty Minutes a Day.** A regular routine of walking can increase cardiovascular fitness, strengthen bones, reduce excess body fat, and boost muscle power and endurance.
4. **Incorporate More Greens on the Plate.** Greens, especially dark leafy greens, have a broad array of benefits from healthier skin, vision, and energy to stronger kidneys and organs. Start off slow by adding greens to the dinner and lunch plate. Any kind of dietary change takes time, some effort and planning. But it is all worthwhile.
5. **Use Aroma Therapy for Stress Management.** Essential oils truly are essential to wellness. Aroma therapy has been used for thousands of years as tools for healing. When feeling overwhelmed, stressed, flustered or rushed throughout the day: try dipping a cotton ball into lavender oil, chamomile or eucalyptus and breath in the oils. This simple activity will bring about a drastic change in one's mental and emotional state.
6. **Engage in Nature Therapy.** One Japanese practice called 'Forest Bathing' has radically improved health in people. All



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The Dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Work in Progress

Bridget J. Floyd



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the iconic civil rights leader, would have celebrated 91 years of existence on January 15, 2020. Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN, at the age of 39. He was there to advocate for equitable pay for sanitation workers.

Dr. King earned his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA, and his Ph.D. in theology from Boston University. As a young minister in Montgomery, AL, he was essentially drafted as leader of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. After Mrs. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus, an effective and well-organized boycott ensued and had the desired economic impact. Dr. King embraced the leadership of the Civil Rights Movement with

the now well-known tenants of nonviolent peaceful protest. Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize as a result.

Video accounts show the commitment and control of protesters who endured verbal and physical aggression, without responding in kind. Many were injured, some lost their lives, including Dr. King. He expanded his efforts to crusade for peace (against the Vietnam War) and economic improvement for poor people of all races.



After more than fifty years, are things where Dr. King would expect or hope? What is the status of dream fulfillment?

Clearly progress has been made: Educational and occupational opportunities and achievements as well as political involvement and elected positions. While there is economic progress, Caucasians still rank higher than African Americans and other minorities in this area. Although the 44th President of the United States was born to an African father and Caucasian-American mother (the first African-American president), the 45th President continues to unapologetically criticize and take actions to dismantle or reverse many things considered "progress" by a significant number of Americans. Some have protested against these changes/reversals. There are those who have compared the differences in temperament and cognitive processing, as well as leadership style of the two leaders, among other comparisons.

Dr. King advocated for justice, equality, nonviolence, peace, and civility even in the face of threats and violence. What might he think about verbal and electronic bullying; resurgence of groups that promote white supremacy; an associated rise of violence against racial, religious, and ethnic minorities; harassment and assault of women and other vulnerable individuals; opposition to immigration to the point of what many would categorize as inhumane treatment of the most vulnerable – children; problematic relations with other countries – risking alienation of allies and coming to the brink of war, perhaps even risking nuclear conflict with adversaries?

The teachings and actions of Dr. King can still serve as inspiration and a model for effecting change in today's world. Much of what is seen in today's world is antithetical to Dr. King's approach/teachings. Complacency is not an option. Present – day action and response can still come from the "grass roots" (as in the 1950's and 1960's). Due to more than fifty years of progress and change, there are people in positions of power (African Americans and other racial, ethnic, religious, and economic minorities) who can make a difference as well.



Still a work in progress: Do Not Lose Sight of "The Dream"! Keep Working on "The Dream".

Turning Your 2020 Health Goals into Daily Habits

Rosemary Wells

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a person need do is surround themselves with trees. The concept is to be free from obligations, effort, and doing. Do not hike or count steps, just be present. Focus on all five of senses. It is revitalizing and energy restoring. Try doing this, if possible, for ten minutes a day and see how you feel!

7. **Inhale Fresh Air Fifteen Minutes a Day.** Fresh air opens the lungs, the heart and the mind. It is a collaborative process with body and nature. Being outside is emotionally and mentally healing. A benefit of breathing in fresh air is it sharpens the mind and restores the energy, digestive system, and improves blood flow.
8. **Try this Simple Diaphragmatic Breathing Technique for Anxiety.** If a person is anxious or overly stressed all the time, the body system will operate as if they are always in fight or flight. Deep breathing slows all the systems in the body down. It clears the mind of troubled or worrisome thoughts. Try this: inhale slowly through the nose four times and exhale, making a soft sound. Repeat it four times and be wowed by the results. You will feel much calmer!
9. **Devote ten Minutes of Stretching during the Day.** Stretching is needed to strengthen, repair and grow muscles. Stretching increases flexibility and decreases chronic pain. It is good to stretch before and after a workout session. Stretching fosters movement and relaxes the body and mind!
10. **Take Naps.** A nap will revitalize a person's physical energy and mind; and refresh their eyes and focus. Naps are a great way to provide needed breaks during the day or evening!
11. **Organize the Home or Work Space.** Fifteen minutes of cleaning will save so much time. Whether it is in the morning or at night, take fifteen minutes to clean each day. A person's home should be their oasis. A clean place is vital for stress management.
12. **Schedule Moments of Silence.** Just ten minutes of silence can have a profound impact on a person's mental health. These moments of silence should give their mind pause, a break from tedious thoughts!

When all else fails take a nap. ~

Do not attempt to force habits. It is okay if it takes a while to really get in the groove and adjust! Incorporating even the smallest goals and making them habits will transform an individual's health in some way. If a person has fallen off the wellness wagon, they simply need to try doing a few of these regularly. Turning health goals into habits will transform anyone's well-being in ways they would never imagine and they will feel unstoppable.

For more tips on health/well-being go to <http://tessakoller.com>

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- ◇ To continue my studies at the Huntsville Bible College in hopes of obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Christian Education...Theological Scholar
- ◇ My goals in 2020 are to try and become a better "person" this year, than I was the year before. I plan to be more productive and spend less time procrastinating; demonstrate more adaptability to change and be less accepting of the status quo; be engaged in more quality time and less in just "busy" time. I will strive to meet these goals one day at a time with the Lord's help...Deep Intuitive Thinker
- ◇ My goal for 2020 is to spend more time reading and less time on Social Media...College Student

³ Hill, Napoleon. (2020). Retrieved from www.pinterest.com/quotes-hill.

St. John Welcomes New Members!

Nedra McDaniel

Members who recently united with St. John completed a three-session new members' class on December 7, 2019 and were read into full membership and extended the right hand of fellowship on Sunday December 15, 2019.



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
making a presentation to the New Members Class.

The textbook for the class was *The S.A.T.* Manual of African Methodism* by Bishop Gregory Ingram. The first session covered "What We Believe." Students were taught the ABCs of salvation, the definition of the church and Christians, and what AMEs believe (the 10 Commandments, the Articles of Religion, the Apostles Creed and the General Confession). The second session was more specific to African Methodism. It began with a documentary on Bishop Richard Allen. The five (5) conferences of the church and the episcopal structure were taught. The final presentation of the second session was on Stewardship and Finance. The third session began with a discus-

sion on the two sacraments, baptism and Holy Communion. The final two hours of the last session focused on the boards, auxiliaries, and ministries of St. John. Representatives from these groups made presentations to the class and encouraged their participation in the ministries of the church.

Although students in the class had various Christian experiences and came from various denominations, they all expressed that they found the sessions informative and identified areas where they wished to serve at St. John. The persons who completed the class were Deborah Bland, Diedre Davis, Hedy Ibezim-Phillips, Carla Buchanan, Alvin Hardwick, Jerald Gains, the Reverend Derwood Wilson, Jacqueline Davis-Vazquez, the Reverend Donnamarie Brown, and Robin Reeves. The coordinators and instructors for the class were the Reverend Dr. James R. Johnson, Presiding Elder Oliver Allen, Sister Barbara Johnson, Sister Patricia Grier and Sister Nedra McDaniel. Pastor Wright served as advisor and participated in the discussions/presentations.



Presiding Elder (Retired) Oliver Allen
teaching the New Members Class.



Sister Johnson instructing the Cade kids
during New Members Class.



New Members, ministry presenters and Pastor Wright.

STAR Driving License Requirements

Deborah Bland



Do you have a Star ID in your wallet? No? Then this information is for you! Effective October 1, 2020, everyone will need a Star ID as an extra layer of identification when planning to board a commercial aircraft for domestic flights, or enter certain military bases, and regulated federal facilities. The Real ID Act of 2005 was passed by Congress in response to terrorism committed in the United States. This Act, while requiring a "Star" on the official, authorized motor vehicle license, will also allow individuals to use their unexpired United States passports for travel. Expiration dates for passports are based on the age at which they were received. A passport obtained before the age of 16 is valid for 5 years. A passport obtained after age 16 is valid for 10 years. The expiration date can be found on the second page of the passport.

In the state of Alabama, only Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Driver's License Exam Offices can issue Star ID's to qualified individuals. County operated license offices will continue to provide renewals and duplicates for ID cards and Star IDs.

The state office located at 1115 Church Street, Huntsville, Alabama is now open on Saturdays from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm and weekdays to issue the Star ID License. No appointment is necessary. This location is one of four offices in the state of Alabama and the only one in North Alabama to expand its hours to meet the demand.



There are three (3) categories and four (4) forms of identification needed when applying for the Star ID. When an individual applies for the Star ID they must bring, one document verifying their identity and date of birth; one document verifying their social security number; and two (2) documents verifying their principle residence address.

For information and a complete list of required documents, please visit Alabama Law Enforcement Agency website at www.alea.gov. To see a list of acceptable identification documents for domestic air travel visit www.tsa.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Can I get a STAR ID license and ID card before the expiration date on my current license or ID card?

Yes. You will have to pay for a duplicate.

What is the cost of the STAR ID or ID card?

A STAR ID license is the same as a normal license, \$36.25 paid to License Dept. Checks payable to Mark Craig, License Director.

What if my utility bill, which is needed as proof of residency, is in my spouse's or parent's name?

If you present utility bills to verify the address of your principal residence, and those bills are in your spouse's name, you must bring your marriage certificate. If utility bills are in your parent's name, you may use your birth certificate.

Do I need to get a new license now if I intend to use a commercial airline or enter federal facilities?

Beginning October 1, 2020, all domestic flights will require flyers to hold a STAR ID or possess a passport. To see a list of all accepted documents visit TSA. Some military installations are currently requiring a STAR ID to obtain access, it will depend on the facility.

Simple Tips for Saving More in 2020

Bobby Adkins, II

It is a new year, new decade, and everyone has big financial plans in 2020. If a person desires to save more and expand their net worth, here are some steps to increase individual savings, without a tremendous lifestyle change.

Establish a Savings Objective: Simply put, saving requires discipline, very similar to the ability and desire to tithe within the Christian church. It is not so much about consistency. Instead, it is a desire and plan focused on attaining a specific objective. For starters, commit to a specific dollar amount each week/month, based on the pay schedule. NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL. Remember, the goal is to SAVE MORE. \$25, \$50, \$75, or \$100 saved per month adds up. Factoring in small interest payments furthers the cause.



What are your 2020 savings goals?

Make An Emergency Fund a Priority: An emergency fund is a financial safety net.

Start small, choosing to save an additional 3-5% of a weekly salary. The extra \$20-\$50 per month can work wonders. Unexpected expenses are bound to crop up. It is wise to have money saved for when something happens. Sacrificing a trip to Starbucks or McDonalds, or the family dinner outing, once a week, creates a path for additional savings.

Have Fun Without Busting the Budget: Sometimes it feels impossible to have a social life, entertain kids, or treat oneself to something nice, without spending a bunch of money. But the solution is not locking oneself inside the house and being bored all the time. Becoming a couch potato presents its own set of problems, often resulting in added cost, such as health care. A person can find entertainment that does not include a price tag. Perhaps more time outdoors, reading a book from the library or off the shelf can provide just as much enjoyment.

Stack Up Cash Quickly: Money tends to grow slowly, but sometimes the savings account needs a boost ASAP. Simply challenging oneself to immediately spend less, always helps. Skip the \$10-15 breakfast or lunch once a week. Make that cup of coffee (or latte) at home for a once a week savings of \$5 or more, based on prices at local coffee shops or donut houses. Essentially, decide to spend a little less.



Assess your financial health and establish reasonable goals for your savings

Rethink Your Living Arrangements: Housing is often the single largest monthly expense people face. An individual must have a roof over their head. However, thinking outside the box can help a person reduce their rent or mortgage. In terms of square footage, less is more when it comes to home cost, whether via mortgage or rental. The newer the property, likely the more cost. Oftentimes, residing in an area adjacent to the shiny new property provides an opportunity for better value.

Save More Money at Home: Chances are, there are several opportunities to save money which are very obvious. Some opportunities are relatively easy if a person tweaks their daily routine. By tweaking daily habits when it comes to food (more home cooking), utilities (turn off the lights or lower the heat in the winter), clothing (shop less or become a bargaining shopper) and cleaning supplies (less name brands, focusing on the chemical make-up of the product, instead of the brand), a family can lower their expenses and build up their reserves.

Get the Best Deals on Travel: It is hard to relax on vacation when the family has spent so much on plane tickets. Its more troubling when they can not afford a nice lunch or beverage on the beach. Saving money on upcoming travel is an art form, but a thrifty family can master it with a little homework up front. Be strategic when booking that flight. Search for the best values and book as far in advance as possible. Knowing the cheapest days to fly will help pocket more of that hard-earned cash.

(Continued on page 15)

Preparing for the 2020 Census



Every ten years, America comes together to count every resident in the United States. The first census was taken in 1790 as mandated by the Constitution. The purpose of a census is to provide the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, and redistricting and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties and communities. These federal dollars are used to support vital programs such as housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy.

Date of the 2020 Census: April 1, 2020

By April 1, 2020 every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, every household can respond in one of three ways. The head of the household can either respond to the census online, by phone or by mail.

The questions are relatively simple. Here are just a few.

- How many people are living or staying at the home on April 1, 2020?
- Whether the home is owned or rented.
- About the sex, age, and race of the people living there.
- Whether a person in the home is Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish.
- About the relationship of each person in the home.

The 2020 Census will never ask:

- For an individual's social security number
- For a donation of money
- Anything on behalf of a political party
- Or bank or credit card account information.

The personal information from the census is kept strictly *confidential*. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect the information from the census and the data collected will be used only for statistical purposes.

For additional information visit the 2020 Census website at

www.2020census.gov

Registered Voters: Important Dates to Remember

The 2020 election cycle is just around the corner. All registered voters should be prepared to vote in the upcoming elections. Do not wait. Now is the time to confirm voter status. A simple search on www.alabamavotes.gov will confirm a person's voter registration status and voting location.

Here are dates and reminders to prepare for the election cycle.

PRIMARY ELECTION — MARCH 3, 2020

February 14 Last day to hand deliver voter registration forms.

February 15 Last day to postmark voter registration forms.

February 17 Voter Registration Deadline. Last day for online voter registration.

February 27 Last day for voter to make application for an absentee ballot.

March 2 Last day for voter to hand-deliver or postmark an absentee ballot.

PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION (IF NECESSARY) — MARCH 31, 2020

March 16 Voter registration deadline.

March 26 Last day for voter to make application for an absentee ballot.

March 30 Last day for voter to hand-deliver or postmark an absentee ballot.

GENERAL ELECTION — NOVEMBER 3, 2020

October 19 Voter registration deadline.

October 29 Last day for voter to make application for an absentee ballot.

November 2 Last day for voter to hand-deliver or postmark an absentee ballot.

College students enrolled in Alabama may vote in their local elections by submitting an Absentee Ballot. Please remember one must submit an application for the Absentee Ballot, first. The Absentee Ballot will be mailed. The applicant must then submit the Absentee Ballot by the designated deadline.

Voter Registration Forms may be obtained from either Mr. Eddie Sherrod or Mrs. Eva Smith. Absentee Ballot Applications can be obtained from Ms. Barbara Johnson.

Registration can also be completed on line at
www.alabamavotes.gov



Soup Kitchen Ministry

Clarice Brooks

We Believe We Will Run On

"I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all." *Ecclesiastes 9:11 NIV*

An unknown writer shared a story about a grandmother and granddaughter that the slaves shared years ago. The conversation went something like this. The grandmother said to the granddaughter, "Child we don't give up in this family, because the Bible tells us, "the race is not given to the swift, but to the ones who endures the race."

As the granddaughter grew in wisdom, one day, she said to her grandmother, "Well, grandmother, after reading, Ecclesiastes Chapter 9 verse 11, the scripture does not actually, say that the race is not won by the swift, but by the one who endures."

The granddaughter went on to say, "Actually, grandmother, what Solomon was saying was that he had the pleasure to be among the cleverest human beings, the most accomplished human beings and the wealthiest human beings in the world. And, time and chance happen to them all. Nevertheless, they did not give up, they continued in the race of life. They kept running in spite of their setbacks." The grandmother continued to listen.

Smartly, she continued. "We cannot allow our setbacks to kick us out of the race of life. We cannot become weighted roadblocks in our pathways."

The granddaughter was adamant as she proclaimed, "The Word of God tells us that the enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy us."

She went further by saying, "I remember the scripture that said, that He came so that we might have life and have it to the fullest. We cannot allow depression, loneliness, disappointments nor our failures to paralyze us from moving forward in the race of life."

The grandmother said, "That's true, and together, the family will not let the enemy rob us of the experience of those amazing plans that God has for us all."

The family who believes in God's Word, clings to His promises and trusts Him, will continue to move forward believing that the Word of God gives a future and a hope. The enemy wants nothing better than for the family to give up on God's Word and quit this race of life. However a strong family will keep faith in Him. A strong, committed family, will keep faith that His Word gives hope, not to give up in this race of life. A strong, united family will hold together in this race of life in Jesus when they serve as the strong, committed Family of Faith.

The St. John soup kitchen ministry/family continues to Run the Race to feed the homeless, and sick and shut-in twice monthly in the St. John kitchen every 3rd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Join us— Family.

Simple Tips for Saving More in 2020

Bobby Adkins, II

(Continued from page 13)

Be Smart About the Next Car

Purchase: When it comes to buying a car, going with one that's used, rather than brand new can help save thousands. Consider this, a family purchased three vehicles, all of which were company demo vehicles, each with less than 30,000 miles, and each coming with extended warranties attached.

The savings for this family were huge. Industry data indicates that a new car will lose up to 40% of its value within a year of being purchased, regardless of the number of miles on the odometer. Savings in excess of \$10K can be gained by purchasing the previous year's model vehicle, particularly as the newer year's models arrive on the sales lot.



Establish Savings Targets and Financial Goals

Consider each of these steps and determine which ones are most applicable. Best of luck with the financial goals set for 2020 and remember, it takes discipline and purpose. Happy New Year and Happy Savings!

St. John AME Supports Angel Tree® 2020

Bobby Adkins, II

On December 20, 2019, the St. John AME Prison Ministry, in partnership with Prison Fellowship Ministries (PFM), the Alabama Non-Violent Offenders Organization (ANVO), and the Huntsville Probation and Parole – Day Reporting Center (HSV-DRC), treated 20 local families to a holiday meal, presented gifts to 40 children, and provided gift cards for 20 parents, each of whom are participating in the Alabama State Corrections Facility, Post Release, Three (3) Phased Integration Program. Matthew 25:40 reads, "The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Phase 1 and 2 persons received a stipend of no more than \$192 per month while attending the program, which requires near full-time participation. As such, most of the young men and women struggle with consistent employment due to the timelines for day reporting and the Monday – Friday class schedule. The gifts provided by St. John AME better ensured that each child and family were able to enjoy the blessings of the Christmas season.

The DRC program is designed to assist recently released prisoners from State Correctional Facilities with a comprehensive wellness package designed to enhance the reintegration of persons on parole back into everyday society.

Pastor Maurice Wright II, St. John AME Church, Pastor/Teacher, opened the event with prayer and special remarks. Brother Adkins followed by leading the families through a series of ice breakers, to include word games. Lunch was provided and sponsored by St. John members, prior to the gifting portion of the program. St. John AME members stepped up in advance of the ministry event by purchasing gifts during a three-week period between Thanksgiving and Christmas, providing over 100 presents for the 40 children, representing 20 families and adults. Cash and gift card donations exceeded \$650.



Families (lower left and right) were treated to lunch, games and gift cards.



Bro. Bobby Adkins presents gifts to the APP-DRC personnel and families



Michelle Patrick (lower left - on the right) provided access to the HSV DRC for the Prison Ministry Event.

St. John AME, thanks for all that you did to support the Huntsville community. A special thanks is expressed to Sister Kay Adkins and Samantha Adkins, who organized the received packages, purchased gifts using cash received from members, and wrapped additional gifts; and Sister Patricia Grier, who designed and provided Angel Tree tags for each family package. Well Done!

AME Proud!



Miss Mariah Lordea
Gullatte

Congratulations!

Mariah Lordea Gullatte graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Apparel Design and Production Management and a Minor in Human Sciences International Studies. Mariah will begin work on her Master of Science Degree in Hotel Restaurant and Hospitality Management at Auburn in the Spring of 2020. While at Auburn Mariah was involved in many organizations and worked with the Athletics and Events Dept. She is very proud of being a leader in submitting the most designs in her Senior Capstone Fashion Event and that some of her designs were shown on the Auburn University National Television Commercial and published in the Auburn Research Magazine.

Mariah is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Karl Gullatte, sister to Mr. Josiah Gullatte and the granddaughter of Mrs. Lorene Jones and the late Mr. Ernest Jones.

The Pride of St. John AME Church The Junior Usher Board



Mr. Sam Walton, Head Usher, Mr. Blake Johnson, Mr. Eddie Whitehead, Jr., Mr. Elijah Nornel, The Reverend Maurice Wright, II, The Reverend Joretha Wright, Mr. Michael Clark and Mr. Daniel Haygood

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness (Psalm 84:10). The St. John Junior Usher Board under the leadership of Mr. Sam Walton is the pride of St. John. These young men serve because they have a desire to serve in the church, be of service to others and please their parents. Mr. Walton serves as a mentor to the young men as well as a trainer and guide.



The Reverend Dr. Jennifer
Oliver with The Reverend
Maurice Wright, II, Servant
Pastor of St. John AME
Church, Huntsville, AL.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Reverend Dr. Jennifer Oliver on her ordination in November. Reverend Dr. Oliver is an ordained Itinerant Elder serving in the 5th Episcopal District. She is an Associate Minister of First AME Church, Pasadena, California. Pastor Oliver received her calling under the leadership of the Reverend Dr.

Patrick Clayborn at St. John AME Church. Pastor Oliver has one daughter, Jordan Patterson.

The Honorable Val Demings, U. S. House of Representatives



Valdez Venita "Val" Demings is an American law enforcement officer and politician who serves as the United States Representative from Florida's 10th congressional district.

She served as Chief of the Orlando Police Department, the first woman to hold the position. She is a graduate of Florida State University. Rep. Demings is married to Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings, is a proud mother to three sons, and proud grandmother to five. Rep. Demings holds an honorary doctorate of laws from Bethune-Cookman University. She is a member of St. Mark AME Church, Orlando, Florida.

Church School Lesson Overview – February 2020

The reviews were written by Brother Kenneth Parham.

February 2, 2020

Lesson Title: Single-Minded Obedience

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Print: Matthew 4:1-11

Devotional Songs: “#377” [], #242 [], and #243 []

Key Verse: “... Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” Matthew 4:10 (NRSV)

In this lesson, the reader encounters Satan carrying out his plan to destroy the relationship between man and God. Satan has always been envious of the relationships between God and Jesus and God and man. Satan has always wanted to be like God (Isaiah 14:13). His plan was to get Jesus to submit (obey and serve) him. And after finding Jesus isolated and weak from fasting, Satan put his plan into action.

Satan first went after the basic needs of man. He tempted Jesus by indicating that Jesus should turn the stones into bread. Jesus responded by quoting scripture indicating man does not live by bread alone. It is theorized that had Jesus satisfied individual man's or humanity's craving, both Jesus and Satan knew that man was willing to surrender all in order to have basic needs met. And we are reminded that a man can become so hungry that he will sell his birth right for food.

Satan next, attacked the faith relationship between man and God. Satan indicated to Jesus that Jesus should not have any problem jumping off the cliffs knowing that “God will send His angels to bear Jesus up so that Jesus' feet will not dash against stone.” Jesus responded by indicating that scripture also states that thou shall not put your God to a test. Here, it is being theorized that Jesus knew that if he had jumped, or even considered jumping, that He (as man) would have tempted God and questioned man's faith in God thus presenting an opportune time for Satan to compete with God.

And finally, Satan transported Jesus to the top of the world and showed Jesus all the riches of the world. He indicated that if Jesus would just bow down before him and serve him, Satan would give Jesus all of the riches of the earth. Jesus responded using scripture to indicate that believers are to worship the Lord God and serve only Him. Again, it is being theorized that what Satan wanted to convey to Jesus was that man possesses a spirit of greed and that greed will make a man worship other things than God.

This lesson reminds believers that just as Jesus used the

Word to rebuke evil, it is so relevant today that believers reflect and lean on the Word when going through difficult times in their lives. The lesson also emphasizes that man, having free will, is willing to choose to obey and to serve either sin unto death or obedience unto righteousness (Romans 6:16).

February 9, 2020

Title: Piety That Honors God

Lesson Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5:1-6; Matthew 6:1-8

Print: Matthew 6:1-8

Devotional Songs: #412 [], #272 [], and #243 []

Key Verse: “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.” Matthew 6:1 (NRSV)

In this lesson, Jesus teaches on the human nature while doing good deeds, while giving and while offering prayer.

Jesus indicated that some only do good deeds if and only if they are recognized or rewarded by man. And if recognition is warranted from man, then Jesus indicated that there is no reward awaiting in heaven.

Jesus indicated that while giving, the left hand should not know what the right hand is doing. One should not keep account of what one is giving to God or others nor should one expect any recognition or reward in return. The giver should give in secret and God will reward openly.

And while praying, Jesus indicated that one should not be like those who pray in the churches or in public using fancy words and repetitive or catch phrases only to be seen by men. Again, Jesus indicated that these have already been rewarded by man and should not expect a reward in heaven. Jesus indicates that when believers pray, they should go to a quiet place and without being repetitive offer sincere requests and God, who hears in secret will answer their requests.

The Life Application Study Bible commentary indicated that the motives for doing anything for God should be pure. “Yes, it is easy to do what is good and what is right for recognition and praise. But to ensure that motives are not selfish, good deeds should be performed quietly or in secret and with no thought of reward. The acts that performed should be God-centered and not self-centered ... The reward God promises is not material and is never given to those who seek it.”

(Continued on page 19)

Church School Lesson Overview – February 2020

(Continued from page 18)

February 16, 2020

Lesson Title: The Prayer of Jesus

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 6:9-15

Print: Matthew 6:9-15

Devotional Songs: #215[]; #251[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "Pray then in this way ... Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ." Matthew 6:10 (NRSV)

Using the [Life Application Study Bible](#) commentary, the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples is dissected below:

The phrase Our Father which art in heaven, indicates that God is not only majestic and holy, but personal and loving. These words are used in an opening prayer as giving praise and showing commitment to God (verse 9).

Thy kingdom come and thy will be done is a reference of God's spiritual reign will be complete when all evil is done (verse 10).

Give us this day our daily bread. Here there is acknowledging God being Sustainer and Provider. The faithful must trust God daily to provide what He knows they need (Verse 11).

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Jesus here gives a strong warning about forgiveness. If Christians do not forgive one another, how do they expect God to forgive them? Because when believers do not forgive, they are denying their common ground as sinners looking towards God's redemptive forgiveness and love (verse 12).

Lead us not into temptation. Jesus is not implying that God will lead people into temptation. He is simply asking for deliverance from Satan and his deceitful acts. All Christians struggle with temptation, be it subtle or overt. God has promised that He will not allow believers to be tempted beyond their endurance (verse 13).

February 23, 2020

Lesson Title: Perseverance in Prayer

Lesson Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

Print: Luke 11:5-13

Devotional Songs: #424[]; #345[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." Luke 11:9 (NRSV)

In this lesson, Jesus uses a parable to demonstrate that God will answer prayers.

The parable indicated that one night while a man and his family were asleep at home, a neighbor banged on the door awakening the man from sleep. The man of the house inquired through locked doors what the neighbor wanted. The neighbor indicated that he was expecting a visitor but had no food to serve and asked if he could borrow loaves of bread to feed his visitor. The man demanded that the neighbor go away, but the neighbor persisted until the man relented and gave the neighbor what he had requested.

Jesus indicated that so it is with God. Through persistent prayer, God will hear the prayers of believers and grant their requests.

Church School meets each Sunday at 8:45 a.m.

Classes for all ages.

Everyone is welcome!

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path.



Church School Book Club



January 2020 **Discussion Date: January 18, 2020**
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

The Masterpiece, A Novel, Davis, Fiona, 2019.

February 2020 **Discussion Date: February 15, 2020**
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

More to Life, Billingsley, ReShonda Tate, 2019

Freshly 45, Aja James knows her life is good, complete with a loving, wealthy husband, well-adjusted children, and a beautiful home. Yet the truth is, she feels painfully unfulfilled, stuck in the present, haunted by a painful past. When a friend suggests a girls' trip to a tropical paradise, Aja hopes a change of scene will also change her perspective.

On vacation, filled with fun and freedom, Aja is relieved to find her spirits lifting. But her good time also shines a light on what is troubling her: from her siblings to her husband and kids, she has spent nearly her whole life taking care of everyone - except herself. She has lost her spark. She has lost her identity.

Desperate to turn things around, Aja makes an impulsive decision - one that outrages her family and that stuns her friends. But it may also be her wisest choice. Because it is only through learning what she could lose - and what is truly worth keeping - that Aja can transform this temporary fix into real, lasting happiness. - Amazon

Celebrating the Life of Samuel Harrison Peoples, Sr.



The Celebration of Life for Brother Samuel Harrison Peoples, Sr. was held on Monday, December 30, 2019 at St. John AME Church.

Brother Peoples was a native of Birmingham, Alabama. He was educated in the Birmingham City School System and graduated from A. H. Parker High School in 1959. He attended Miles College briefly before entering into the United States Military. He began his career as an infantryman. He retired after serving for 27 years as a Non-Commissioned Officer. After his retirement he worked for Boeing for 10 years until 2010.

He was a man of faith. Brother Peoples rededicated his life to Jesus in 2016 while attending St. John AME Church.

He was a strong patriarch of his family, and a good friend to all he met. He was good father who always took care of his children and did the best he could to teach and guide them. He was also a loving grandfather.

Being that he was a military veteran, Pastor Wright's eulogy was entitled, "Samuel's Final PCS (Permanent Change of Station) a term with which all military personnel are familiar. The scripture reference was 2 Timothy and 2 Corinthians 5:1. Three points were made regarding a "Good Solider." First a good solider must endure hardship. Secondly, a good solider must not get entangled in everyday life. And thirdly, a good solider must please the Lord Jesus for they know that this earthly house will inevitably pass away.

Brother Peoples is survived by his loving wife, Sister Maeola Peoples, three sons, and a daughter. One godson, Ricardo Love. Ten grandchildren, four great grandchildren, one brother and three sisters.

Brother Peoples was loved and will be truly missed.



February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00 a.m. Steward Board Meeting
2 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	3 8:30 am Fifty Plus Meeting CPR Ministry 1:00 p.m. (new meeting time) 5:00 p.m. History Makers Ministry 8:00 p.m. Gospel Choir Rehearsal	4	5 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Bible Study	6	7 7:30 p.m. AMEN Staff Meeting	8
9 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	10	11	12 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Bible Study	13	14  AME Church Founder's Day	15 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
16 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	17  Pisheke's Day 6:00 p.m. Lay Meeting	18 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	19 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Prison Ministry	20	21	22 10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting
23 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	24 6:00 p.m. Official Board Meeting	25 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN 6:30 p.m. Church School Board Meeting	26 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Bible Study	27	28	29 Leap year 

St. John AME Church
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The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor

In the February Issue:

- ♦ A moving tribute to our beloved, Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall.
- ♦ Recognition of Founder's Day and Bishop Richard Allen.
- ♦ Preparation for the 135th Church Anniversary of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church.



INDNJC

*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

ST. JOHN A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER

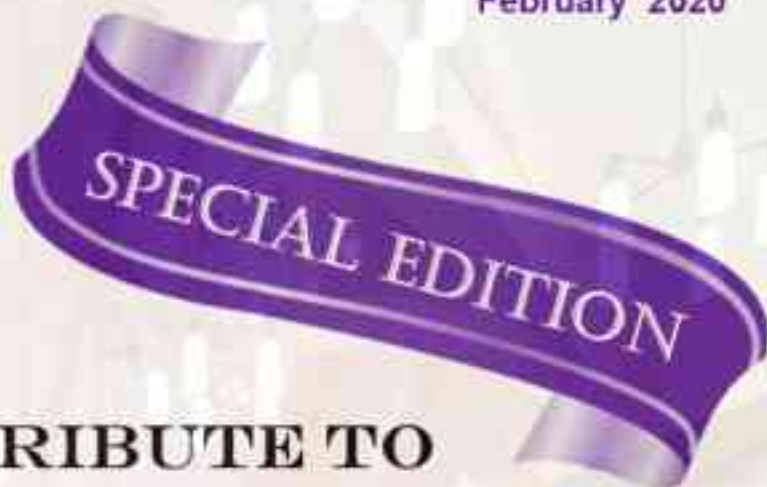


St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 25 Issue 2

February 2020



A TRIBUTE TO

The Man...

The Preacher...

The Legacy...

REVEREND DR. HOMER LITTLEFIELD MCCALL

I Have Only Just a Minute
by Dr. Benjamin E. Mays

I have only just a minute,
Only sixty seconds in it.
Forced upon me, can't refuse it.
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it.
But it's up to me
to use it.
I must suffer if I lose it.
Give account if I abuse it.
Just a tiny little minute.



February 1, 1941—November 22, 2019

The Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall Appointed to St. John AME Church

GREATER ST. JOHN'S DOOR TO OPEN

FATHER'S DAY

The New Pastor



Rev. Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall
The Rev. Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, is the new pastor of St. John's A.M.E. Church. He received his B.A. degree from Morehouse College in 1963, with a major in English, and minor in French. Reverend McCall went on to attend Yale University Divinity School from 1962-1964.



The Late Pastor



Rev. Samuel Shelby Hereford
The Rev. Samuel Shelby Hereford, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, was the former pastor of St. John's A.M.E. Church. He received his B.A. degree from Morehouse College in 1963, with a major in English, and minor in French. Reverend Hereford went on to attend Yale University Divinity School from 1962-1964.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PASTOR,
OFFICERS, & MEMBERS OF THE GREATER ST. JOHN'S A.M.E.
CHURCH UPON THE COMPLETION OF THIS FINE EDIFICE**

**WE WERE GLAD TO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN
AS GENERAL CONTRACTOR
FOR THIS FINE HOUSE OF GOD**

**QUALITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
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Bible Thought

"It was his ambition to worship in the new sanctuary on Easter Sunday, but God gave him a new seat in the midst of the company of the Four and Twenty Elders."

This article appeared in *The Weekly News*, on Wednesday, June 16, 1971. It was announcing the arrival of the new pastor for St. John AME Church, following the untimely and sudden passing of the former pastor, the Reverend Samuel Shelby Hereford.

The newly assigned pastor of St. John was to be the Reverend Homer L. McCall a native of Montgomery, Alabama.

He received his B. A. degree from Morehouse College in 1963, with a major in English, and minor in French. Reverend McCall went on to attend Yale University Divinity School from 1962-1964.

He had also pastored St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Montgomery, AL and the Warrior Circuit of the North Alabama Conference.

Reverend McCall and his wife, Mrs. Mable Jones McCall moved to Huntsville to assume their assignment at St. John.

The Reverend Samuel Shelby Hereford had labored diligently to build a brand new edifice to honor God and His people. This new structure would have all the modern conveniences that would make a church relevant and inspirational in the future. The new St. John had been erected at a cost of over \$175,000.

"It was his ambition to worship in the new sanctuary on Easter Sunday, but God gave him a new seat in the midst of the company of the Four and Twenty Elders."

The Man-The Preacher-The Legacy

Dr. Lee E. Williams, II



Upon uniting with St. John AME Church, under Pastor McCall as an affiliate member in 1974, my wife (Rosetta A. Williams) and I found Pastor McCall to be full of faithfulness to his family, to the church, to Alabama A&M University, and to the Huntsville Community. Always exhibiting himself as the quintessential family man, Reverend McCall was very rarely seen in public without Mrs. McCall and their children. Whether at the barber shop, the grocery store or in the mall, they were together always.

At St. John, Pastor McCall served for more than forty years while offering all his abiding hope in God. He gave the people in St. John, and outside, loving guidance and blessing wherever and whenever he could. He was well known throughout the Connection for his fervent prayer life and impactful sermons. Such effectiveness led many to answer their call to the ministry and others to assume leadership positions in the church.

Fluent in the French and English languages, Pastor McCall served Alabama A&M University as an instructor for as long as he served St. John as a minister. His students admired him and held him in very high esteem. Pastor McCall served as University Chaplain while serving Christ in unique ways in the classroom and during university gatherings. His objectives were always to learn, to teach, to worship and to pray.

As a notable minister in the Huntsville community and the Ninth Episcopal District, Pastor McCall demonstrated the leadership qualities of patience, the collective significance of all persons, the power of prayer, the glory of Godliness, and the sharing of spiritual gifts. He consistently demonstrated the religious principals of love, hope, peace and joy.

As my pastor for more than forty years, he never failed to call or pray for me when I was ill or to congratulate me when I made a spiritual contribution to the growth of the church as a committee member, steward or trustee. He was a significant part of my spiritual development for which I shall forever be in his debt.



The McCall Family

Front row: Mr. & Mrs. Gerald (Gale) Teague with daughters Genae & Zoe Teague, Mr. & Mrs. Homer (Shakira) McCall II, Mr. & Mrs. Darryl (Sonya) Shepard, Mrs. Mable McCall's brother, Mr. Calvin Jones. Back row: Madison McCall, Ari Taylor, Jacob McCall, Lauryn Shepard and Zuri Shepard.

His Legacy
His Family and those he shepherded at
St. John AME.



Reflections on a Life Well Lived

The St. John AMEN newsletter staff was asked to collect memories from the congregation on the impact Dr. McCall had on their lives. Here are just a few of the responses.

Dr. McCall impacted my life in many ways. I will start by remembering what a kind and humble man he was. He was truly dedicated to preaching God's word. All you had to do was mention Dr. McCall's name and anyone who knew him, immediately without hesitation spoke of him as humble, kind, intelligent, family oriented and a devout man of God.

He was so appreciative of everything anyone did for him and his family. He always followed any act of kindness with a gracious "Thank-you" note, no matter how large or small the thought.

I remember vividly the time I asked him to offer prayer for my nephew who was critically ill. He prayed with me over the phone, then visited him in the hospital and prayed again. My sister-in-law who was there told me what a wonderful prayer he delivered. She was so impressed.

Dr. McCall was always so positive. I can still hear him say, "The BEST is yet to come." ———Mrs. Martha Smith



My memory of Reverend McCall was one where, my niece Nina Johnson, Sister Shemeka McCoy and I, were the last three candidates who received baptism from Reverend McCall. This was on March 10, 2010, at Little Indian Creek P. B. Church. While, the actual baptism, (emersion) was done by the late Reverend Kenneth Johnson, it was Reverend McCall who read the three of us into full membership at St. John. I will always remember this special moment in my life.

———Brother Jesse Johnson



I remember Reverend McCall from AAMU due to his service as chaplain. I never had him as an instructor. So, my experience with Reverend McCall was after I joined St. John AME. I respected Reverend but most importantly, I liked him. I liked when he shared how his family prayed together prior to leaving their home each day. I thought that was remarkable. I liked that being covered in prayer as you begin your day and the significance of prayer. I started to begin my day in prayer and Thanksgiving. It is a necessary habit that my husband and I have incorporated in our lives. So, Reverend revealed and personified the importance of a prayer life.

———Sister Claudinette Purifoy-Fears



The Reverend Homer L. McCall was truly a blessing. He impacted my life in many ways. He was a prayer warrior. He would go immediately to God in intercessory prayer when an issue was shared with him; early morning just prior to a surgical procedure; at a swearing-in ceremony; during the illness and passing of my father. He was a shining example of devotion to God and "practicing what he preached".

The former pastor of St. John was impactful also because of his positive and encouraging demeanor. In conversing with Dr. McCall, there were numerous sermons and / or spiritual nuggets shared, as what seemed to be a natural byproduct of the interaction. It was a blessing to know this Renaissance man, whose devotion to God and family served as an inspiration.

———Dr. Bridget Floyd

Reflections on a Life Well Lived



I had the privilege of working with Pastor McCall at St. John AME as the church secretary for more than fifteen years. As my spiritual leader he provided me the guidance I needed to live and thrive as a committed, Christian believer.

The Reverend Dr. McCall was a great supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. During his years at St. John, the church sponsored a Cub Scout Unit and a Boy Scout Troop. A number of young men at St. John achieved the coveted rank of Eagle Scout and took their place in society as successful professional citizens. And he was proud of each and every one of them.

There were many men who patterned their lives after Brother McCall and attained success in their chosen profession and

adult life. The Brothers of Delta Theta Lambda Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and this entire community will never forget the impact he made on our lives.

—— Col. (Ret.) James O. Heyward



Pastor McCall was an encourager. He always had positive words for everyone. Because of his encouragement I was able to serve as editor of the St. John AMEN for over 20 years. Although I had no experience in journalism, Pastor McCall encouraged me and always supported the ministry.

—— Sister Nedra McDaniel



To know Reverend McCall was to love him. To serve and to be mentored by him was a humbling and yet powerful experience which I apply to my daily life as I encounter and minister to others.

—— The Reverend Judith Gardner, Hamilton, Bermuda



What I remember most about Reverend McCall was his amazing ability to recite from memory, long verses of scripture and long stanzas of poetry. The poem, "I Only Have a Minute," was one of his most recited and was probably the shortest compared to the poem "Mother to Son," (Life for me ain't been no crystal stair), by Langston Hughes. The other poem I remember him sharing was Rudyard Kipling's, "If."

"If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with kings-nor lose the common touch, If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you, if all men count with you, but none too much: If you can fill the unforgiving minute, with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, And-which is more-you'll be a Man, my son."

He had an impeccable memory. Even as his health began to fail, he still could greet members by name.

—— Sister Barbara Johnson

Reflections on a Life Well Lived

The Reverend Doctor Homer Littlefield McCall-
"A Gentleman with a Common Touch, who Made a Difference"

By Jeanette Jones

I arrived in Huntsville, Alabama in 1976, and it was my instinct to find an AME Church to attend, since I had been a member of St. Peter AME Church in Fort Valley, Georgia all of my life. I was led to St. John by the late Dr. Leon W. Bonner, former Dean of Graduate Studies at Alabama A&M University (AAMU) and later learned the close connection between AAMU and St. John. The Pastor, Reverend McCall was closely linked to both, as Pastor of St. John and Professor and Chaplain at Alabama A&M University. Dr. McCall and his wife Mable Jones McCall welcomed me with a tip of his hat, a handshake and a smile, just as a gentleman would do and as I will always cherish. Why, then, do so many individuals across the country and throughout the connection remember Homer Littlefield McCall with such fond memories? What manner of man was he? After all, he was just a man who was called to preach and to serve God with all of his heart and soul. He told his congregation, often, that God was his first love, followed by his wife Mable and his family. This love of God was reflected in how he treated people and how he responded to life's biggest challenges. Why did so many Bishops, religious leaders in other denominations, politicians, doctors, lawyers, educators and everyday people hold Homer so dear in their hearts? He was a man with a common touch who never met a stranger and always paid attention to the "small things", that many in his position would ignore. Although he was highly educated, he mentored many and was an example for all who had the chance to meet him. A roll call would produce a litany of individuals in the AME Church and around the country who were under his tutelage. Thank you were two words that were second nature to Reverend McCall. If you did the smallest of things for him or his family, you would get a big thank you, handwritten notes or a phone call. If he learned of an illness or death in your family, he was there to pray or call with a prayer. He did not stop there, he made phone calls for special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas and for a New Year's Prayer. The other three words I associate with Reverend McCall, especially in times of conflict or problems brought to his attention were, "Let's Pray About It". It was the small things that touched me and the hearts of so many; and his common touch with people, that left lasting memories of his special care and concern for others.

So, what was the impact that Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall had, and why did we honor him with the establishment of a scholarship in his name at Alabama A&M University, a special day in February, Black History month, at St. John AME Church? He was just a man who in his own way made a difference in the lives of those who had the chance to get to know him and love him.



I came to Alabama A&M University in 1987 as an 18-year-old country girl. I met Reverend McCall my sophomore year, in what would be the first of two classes (Humanities I and Humanities II) that I would take. His love of the word and the English language was evident by the passion in his voice when he spoke. His love for his family was evident in how he took care of them when they were with him on campus. Lastly, his love for his church was evident in his weekly invitation to his students. It was not until my senior year that I would have the opportunity to visit St. John. I then realized that instructor McCall and pastor McCall were one in the same... He taught his students with the same passion and in the same spirit as he taught his church family. The impact that Reverend had on my life led me to attend St. John in 1992, and subsequently change my membership from St. Paul Baptist Church, to St. John AME Church in 1996.

Reverend McCall was an extremely compassionate person with a genuine love for people. I can remember the first time my mother visited St. John, I introduced them and each time she would visit after that he always greeted her by name. (She

(Continued on page 7)

Reflections on a Life Well Lived

(Continued from page 6)

loved that)

I'll leave you with my fondest memory.... During a brief hospital stay (you know the one where they only keep you 23 hours), Reverend came to Crestwood Hospital on his break, only to find that I had already been dismissed. He called me after I made it home and told me that he had been to Crestwood to visit with me. He apologized, we talked for a few minutes and then he said (as only he could) "Lydia, I came to the hospital to check on you and to PRAY with you, since I couldn't get there before your surgery." He paused for a minute, asked my permission and began to pray for me over the phone. From then on, anytime I asked a question or had a situation, his first words were always "pray about it".

Thank You Homer, Sonya & Gale for sharing your father with so many Alabama A&M students like myself. He was truly a GEM and one of the BEST people I've ever met.

—— Mrs. Lydia Owens, Former Student



Reverend Homer L. McCall was a reverent Godly man, an ideal family man who loved his wife and children, and an ideal spiritual leader who loved his church family, an ideal friend and neighbor who always treated everyone with love and respect. Anytime you were in Reverend McCall's presence, one could always feel God's sweet spirit of genuine love exuding from the twinkle in his eyes and the smile on his face as he greeted you. His amazing legacy as a family man will always live on in the hearts and minds of everyone who knew him or knew of him. He taught the membership by example, that family should always "stick" together physically and spiritually.

As an ideal Pastor, he was a shepherd of God, loving, compassionate, honest, loyal and humble, teaching his congregation that through Christ, "The Best is yet to Come!" As a friend and neighbor, Reverend McCall, always had a word from on high to lift your spirit, motivate, and inspire us to always put God first in our lives. Our loss is heaven's gain! Reverend McCall is now in the strong arms of God who says, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of the Lord." Matthew 25:21-23

—— Mrs. Mary G. Rankin, Neighbor



When I think of the Reverend McCall and his family, I think of a man who loved God, loved people and the tasks he was given to perform. He was a son, a husband, father, brother, an uncle, minister, teacher, neighbor and a friend to many.

My late husband (Jerry) and I moved to Huntsville in June 1973. We immediately sought out the AME Church, because we were both AMEs. On our first visit to St. John, my husband recognized Reverend McCall. They had attended the same school and church in Montgomery and lived near each other. After service, Pastor McCall greeted us, took our address, phone number and said, "I'll call during the week." Later that afternoon, he called and invited us to the parsonage to visit with his family. They had just brought the new baby girl home from the hospital. Our friendship began that Sunday afternoon.

Reverend McCall believed in family. He loved his family and the St. John family. He loved the babies, youth and the elderly.

(Continued on page 8)

Reflections on a Life Well Lived

(Continued from page 7)

He spent a lot of quality time talking with the elderly. He would encourage the youth to study and make good grades. The children loved him because he was kind to them and had a quiet and calm manner in which he talked with them. He had an open-door policy at the church. The children could go in and visit with him, in the office, but most times they just wanted some candy out of his candy jar, and he obliged them.

We were neighbors in Cedar Point. The McCall's would stop by the house on Sunday evenings to eat ice cream and talk. Reverend McCall enjoyed ice cream and a glass of cold water, sometimes two glasses. He was satisfied with the simple things in life. Afterwards the conversation would turn towards things happening in Montgomery. Mrs. McCall named Reverend and Jerry, "The Montgomery Boys," because Montgomery was always their shared conversation.

We were neighbors and Reverend McCall was our pastor, but we were also like family. Our children grew up together, played together and worshiped together. Jerry and I were Uncle Jerry and T-Gwen to Homer, Sonya and Gale. Reverend was Uncle Homer to Brian, but at church, he was still Reverend McCall.

Reverend McCall was always there for my family and me. When my mother became ill, he would call and pray for her and the family. Even after he had retired from St. John, when our son became very ill, he called, visited and prayed with us and for us. When our son died a few years later, the McCall's were in Washington, D. C. with their children and could not be with us physically, but they were there spiritually. Due to their medical conditions neither Mrs. McCall or Reverend was able to attend the funeral, but they informed Jerry and me that a McCall would be in attendance. And true to their word, they flew Homer II to Huntsville for a few hours to bring a message of condolence from them. That's a true friend.

Reverend took early morning strolls through the neighborhood before getting started on his daily tasks. He would walk and meditate while everything was quiet. Walking was one of the things he enjoyed. As a neighbor, he was there for the needs of the community. If things such as re-zoning for some reason or a neighborhood meeting was scheduled, he was in attendance to speak on behalf of those who were going to be affected.

Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall my former pastor, was my neighbor, and — he was my FRIEND.

— — — Deaconess Gwendolyn Baldwin

The Man...The Preacher...The Legacy

Many persons could have been asked to share their memories, and many different narratives would have been submitted, because Pastor McCall impacted each person differently. However, there was one apparent theme among all the accounts submitted, and that common thread was that, Pastor McCall was loving. He loved everyone. It was also reiterated in the opening remarks of the eulogist, Bishop Frank Madison Reid, III, that, "Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall, Loved the People."

Thank you to each of you who shared your thoughts and memories of the Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall. Your heart felt sentiments made this special tribute edition possible.

— — — B. Johnson, Editor

February 1st. Proclaimed Reverend Dr. Homer L. McCall Day

B. Johnson

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 was a very historical day for St. John AME Church. It was during the church conference that the congregation was reminded that Sunday, February the first would have been the 80th birthday of the late Reverend Dr. Homer L McCall. While everyone reflected on that thought, Pastor Wright suggested that the church would on Sunday honor his legacy by proclaiming Sunday, Reverend Dr. Homer L McCall Day. A motion was then offered stating that, "Every first day of February would now and forevermore be proclaimed Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall Day." The motion received a rousing second and a hearty Amen in approval from all present. Pastor Wright concluded by saying, "From this day forth, every first day of February would be the Reverend Homer Littlefield McCall Day."



Huntsville City Councilman
Will Culver

A resolution honoring the legacy of Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall was composed by Huntsville City Councilman Will Culver. Resolution No. 20-50 was read into the minutes of the city council meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2020.

On Sunday, February 2, 2020, Councilman Will Culver visited St. John AME Church to read and present the resolution to the congregation and the family of the late, Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall. Accepting the resolution was Pastor McCall's daughters, Dr. Sonya McCall Shepherd and Mrs. Gale McCall Teague. Three of the McCall granddaughters were also present, Madison McCall, Genae and Zoe Teague.



Councilman Will Culver, Mrs. Gale Teague,
Dr. Sonya Shepherd,
Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Genae and Zoe Teague.



Resolution No. 20-50 signed by the Huntsville City Council
on the 23rd day of January, 2020 and
presented on the 2nd day of February, 2020.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church Celebrates Founder's Day

B. Johnson



Bishop Richard Allen
1760-1831

Psalm 78:5-6 states, "He decreed statutes for our ancestors to teach them, even the children yet to be born, and Founder's Day each year fulfills that require-

It would seem by now, everyone would know the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) story every year, but it is done intentionally. The over again, so that the next generation, and the stand African Methodism. There are new believers and it should be the purpose of each congregation February, AME churches across the nation, pause to recognize Bishop Richard Allen, the founder of the AME Church, and honor its history.

Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he children, so the next generation would know they in turn would tell their children." Celebrating ment.

know the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) story every year, but it is done intentionally. The over again, so that the next generation, and the stand African Methodism. There are new believers and it should be the purpose of each congregation February, AME churches across the nation, pause to recognize Bishop Richard Allen, the founder of the AME Church, and honor its history.



Ms. Kaitlyn McClung, Poet

St. John AME Church celebrated founder's day as well on Sunday, February 9, 2020. The worship service opened with the hymn of praise, followed by the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Presiding Elder (retired) Oliver Allen, Jr. led the congregation in the invocation, praising God and giving thanks for the founder, Bishop Richard Allen for his vision for the AME Church. Worship continued in dance, music and spoken word. Ms. Kaitlyn McClung, an aspiring poet, shared an original piece entitled, "Grandma's History Lesson." A poem spoken exuberantly, chronicling the history of African people from being enslaved until the current times. She received a rousing ovation at the conclusion of her piece.

The scripture reference for the worship service was Deuteronomy 6:23, "But He brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land He promised on oath to our ancestors." The Reverend Maurice Wright, II chose as a sermon title, "Look Where He Brought us From and Let's Keep Going." Pastor Wright began by reminding the congregation of Frederick Douglass' words, "There is no progress without struggle." No one succeeds without a struggle. He followed this reminder with the fact that there is still work yet to be done. Reverend Wright admonished the congregation to be mindful of three important points as to how they are being kept. The first point, he stated, "Tell the children that they have come from an enslaved people, but God! It was not luck or wealth, it was grace that brought us and grace has kept us. Grace the unmerited favor of God. We are still here because of God's grace. Secondly, we have to keep on going. The world is in crisis, trouble on every side. Injustice everywhere. The church needs to take a stand—stand up. However, taking a stand does not come without a cost. Bishop Richard Allen stood up—and walked out of St. George's Church. Refusing to take anymore abuse. He took a stand. A stand which made all the difference to future generations. That is why we have to keep going. Standing for the future generations of children to come. Lastly, as a denomination of believers, it is the mission of the church to remind Christians everywhere that the Lord is on our side and God is still on the throne. He promised an oath to our ancestors and He is a promise keeper. The African Methodist Episcopal Church will continue to grow and prosper. The worship service concluded with cooperate prayer at the altar and the singing of, "We've Come This Far By Faith."

The history of Bishop Richard Allen and the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church will continue to be told each and every year with the intentional purpose of informing every generation. Amen.

The Richard Allen documentary may be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2042042119155900>

St. John AME Church Celebrates Heritage Sunday



Steward Eddie Sherrod



Brother Daniel Haygood



Sister Templea Stanley



Judge (Ret.) M. Lynn
Sherrod



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Presiding Elder (Ret.) Oliver Allen, Reverend Dr. Wims,
Brother Reginald Pearson, Minister of Music
Stewardesses, Carolyn Russ and Paulette Williams



Sister Juanita Washington



Deaconess Barnes-Ivery



Deaconess Brooks



Steward Mashonda White



Sister Patricia Grier



Sister Jakeyah Williams, Brother
Phillip Pugh and Sister LaCondria
Washington

We Have Come This Far by Faith



In the tradition of Black History Month, the church celebrates a lifetime of how African Americans have come this far by faith. African Americans have had to learn over the years how to live and thrive in a country far away from their homeland. From the time of slavery until the present time, they have leaned on and trusted God to help them make it through their struggles because they know He will never leave them nor forsake them.

In 1956, Albert A. Goodson wrote the hymn, *"We Have Come This Far by Faith"* for the Radio Choir of the Fellowship Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. Not much is known about this musician and songwriter; however, his hymn continues to be sung in most African American churches. The chorus of the song still rings true to a host of believers. The chorus to the song has a lot to do with acknowledging God and how the faithful cannot turn their backs on the one who has never failed them yet while learning to live by faith through His Holy Word. The chorus of the song is as follows:

We've come this far by faith
Leaning on the LORD
Trusting in His Holy Word
He never failed me yet
Oh! can't turn around
We've come this far by faith

There are several scriptures that correspond to this hymn and its profound chorus, but the scripture that stands out the most is 1 Chronicles 17:16 which says, "Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and prayed, 'Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?'" From David's perspective and looking back over his life, God had kept him, his family and his kingdom for a very long time. David knew God was going to raise up another person in his family to build the Lord's temple. With that promise in mind, David praised God and recognized he could not have made it without the Lord's help on his side.

While African Americans celebrate Black History Month and remember the contributions of the ancestors, a moment should be set aside to think about how the faithful have leaned on the Lord through the rough times and trusted in His promises. God made promises to everyone in His Holy Word that have come to pass. It is well for all African Americans to always remember their relationship with God. He calls for all believers to walk by faith, and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7) for as long as we live.

Prayer: Thank you, O Lord, for bringing us a mighty long way and increasing our faith through the oppression of slavery and the trials and struggles we are currently going through. We could not have made it this far without you. Increase our faith and help us to trust you more as we learn more about your word. Let us never turn our backs on you because you have not failed us yet.



St. John AME Begins Preparation for the 135th Church Anniversary

B. Johnson

Happy 135th Anniversary St. John AME Church! Yes. St. John will celebrate having been in the Huntsville-Madison County community for 135 years this spring. St. John was founded by Dr. William Hooper Council ten years (1885) after he founded Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (1875). St. John had an humble beginning in a barber shop on West Holmes and Miller Street in downtown Huntsville. Dr. Council was ordained an elder in the AME Church and served as the first pastor.

In 1900, the first church building was erected on Church Street. Ministers serving St. John besides Dr. Council were Reverends Patterson, Shelton, Goodlow, Williams, Todd, Brooks, Newell, Evans, Hill, Brice, Douglas, Cook, Thompson, Scott, Oliver, Woods, Lamar, White, Hughes, Howard, Stone, Dennis, Foxx, Hereford, McCall, Clayborn and our current pastor, the Reverend Maurice Wright, II. In 1971 the church moved into a newly erected facility at 229 Church Street.



St. John AME Church

Preparations have begun for the 135th anniversary of St. John. Mark your calendars. An array of events and activities have been scheduled for the celebration.

Thursday, February 27, 2020..... Organizer, Steward Marcus Hill

One Night Empowerment Revival, featuring the Reverend Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant, Senior Pastor

New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, Lithonia, GA.

Alabama A&M University, T. M. Elmore Building, Doors open at 5:00 pm. Service begins at 6:00 pm

Friday, March 13, 2020..... Organizer (TBA) Family Skate Night..... Rainbow Skate Center..... 6:00— 8:00 pm.

Saturday, March 14, 2020..... Organizer, Sister Kay Adkins..... Community Day of Service..... 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Sunday, March 15, 2020..... Church School at 8:45 am

Organizer, the Reverend Roberta McCoy, Worship Service at 10:00 am

Organizer, Steward Abbiegail Hugine..... Historical Marker Unveiling at 12:30 pm

Organizer, Brother Reggie Pearson, Closing Service..... Anniversary Concert

Performance by Alabama A&M Concert Band / 4:00 pm St. John AME Church

March 1-March 30, 2020..... Organizer, Steward Sharon Butler..... 1-35 (One-Thirty-Five) Building Fund Campaign

This is a church-wide celebration. Everyone is encouraged to participate and get involved.

The organizers for the events are:

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II Servant Pastor

The Reverend Joretha Wright, Executive Minister

Dr. Tonya Perry and Sister Barbara Johnson



St. John AME Begins Preparation for the 135th Church Anniversary

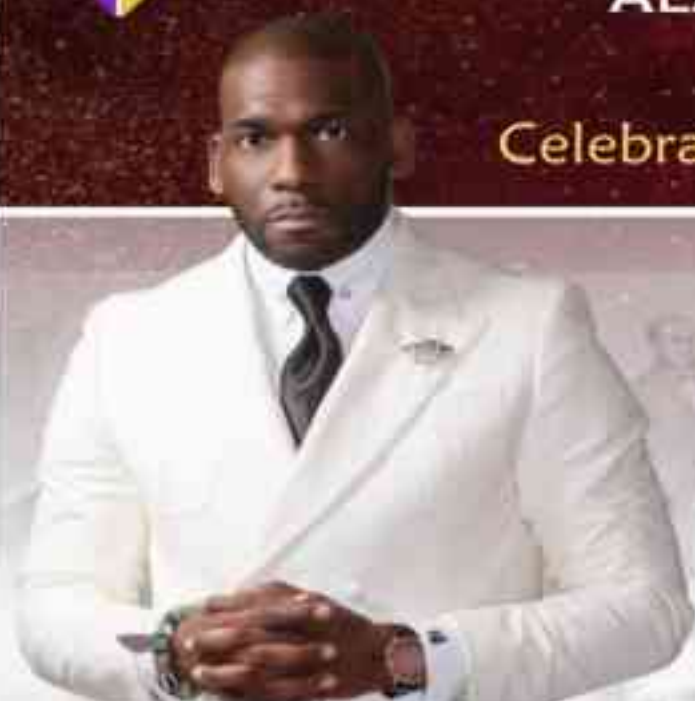


ST. JOHN AME
HUNTSVILLE
Sharing The Word, Serving The People.

ST. JOHN AME CHURCH
ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY



Celebrating Black History Month



PRESENTS

Rev. Dr. Jamal Bryant

ONE NIGHT EMPOWERMENT REVIVAL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020

6:00 P.M.

T. M. ELMORE BUILDING / ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

Open To The Public

Doors Open at 5:00 p.m.



Sponsors

Rev. Maurice Wright II - Servant Pastor

PREMIERE DENTAL SPA
ALBERT'S FLORIST
ROYAL FUNERAL HOME
MATHENY GOLDMAN ARCHITECTS

SERVIS 1ST BANK
RICK GILMORE
THE LIOCE GROUP
RICKEY GOSA-EDWARD JONES

February-Heart Healthy Month

Rosemary Wells



St. John AME Church has been gifted with a new, life-saving device. The Health Ministry, under the advisement of Sister Rosemary Wells and Sister Roselyne Machen, both of whom are health care professionals are in the beginning stages of promoting and securing training for members on the use of the AED, Automatic External Defibrillator.

The American heart Association recommends that AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillator) be available in public and/or private places where large numbers of people gather.

What exactly is an AED? An Automatic External Defibrillator is a light weight, battery-operated portable device that checks the hearts rhythm and sends a high energy electric shock through the heart. The high energy electric shock is called defibrillation. The aim of this shock is to return a heart to its normal working state if it goes into cardiac arrest. When the AED is applied properly to the chest, it assesses the hearts rhythm, determines if a shock is needed, and provides a shock when the rescuer presses a button.

The AED has easy-to-follow visual and audible prompts. A shock cannot be given accidentally. The machine will not deliver a shock unless the heart is in ventricular fibrillation or ventricle tachycardia. CPR without defibrillation in these instances is futile. In sudden cardiac arrest, each minute without defibrillation decreases the victim's survival rate by 10 per cent. Every minute spent waiting for an ambulance counts and the sooner the AED is attached and readied, the better the victim's chance.



One of the best ways to take the scary out of using an AED, as with many other things, is a good old-fashioned dose of practice.

The Lenten Journey 2020

Lent is a liturgical season which lasts 40 days, excluding Sundays and is celebrated by Christians across the world. Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, leading to the season of Easter Tide. Lent is representative of Jesus' being led into the wilderness by the Spirit for 40 days and 40 nights. During this time He endures great temptation, but is able to withstand the temptations of Satan. Just as Jesus' time in the wilderness prepared Him for His three years of ministry, the church uses this 40 day season in preparation as well. First, the 40 days prepares the Church to appropriately remember Jesus' ministry and ultimate sacrifice. This is why the season leads to Resurrection Sunday. Second, Lent helps the Church to prepare collectively and individually for its continued ministry in the world.¹

Many Christians observe Lent, but each community determines the particulars, each choosing their emphases for the season. Special preparation is usually made for the high holy days: Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Most commonly communities of faith observe this season through worship services, prayer, fasting and almsgiving.²

St. John AME will begin its Lenten season of preparation on Ash Wednesday, February 26th with the dispositioning of ashes at the 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm Bible Study. The Weekly Call to Prayer will be initiated on Wednesday, February 26th at 5:00pm and every Wednesday thereafter. The community-at-large will be called to worship in a One-Night Revival, which will be held, Thursday, February 27th at 6:00 pm at Alabama A&M University. The entire congregation will be called to fast and pray beginning Wednesday, February 26th in a church-wide Daniel Fast.

1 & 2 Clayborn, Patrick, "The Lenten Journey 2013 A Lenten Season Devotional". (2013).



Soup Kitchen Ministry

Charlie Brooks

Reverend Dr. Homer L. McCall's Vision to Feed the Multitude

"Remember to welcome strangers because some who have done this have welcomed Angels without knowing it.
(Hebrews 13:2 NIV)

St. John's Soup Kitchen Ministry began in the fall of 2002 under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall. At a fall Stewardess Board Meeting, Stewardess Charlie Brooks with the Pastor's support proposed that the church form a new ministry. The goal presented was that the ministry would use the vehicle of "Food" to feed the kingdom by providing excellence in quality and service to all who would come for a meal. This ministry, which was by any means unique now, was a new vision for the church.

Stewardess Brooks, a life-long AME, was encouraged to begin this ministry after visiting her sister's AMEC where she saw firsthand a church that offered a hot meal while sharing a source of "Good News" and fellowship with persons transported there from a local agency.

Reverend McCall and Mrs. McCall were in accord and the proposal was offered to the Stewardess Board and was accepted. There were several questions as well as skeptics: (1) It is dangerous, we are downtown. (2) Where would the food come from? (3) Do we need special licensing? After deep prayers and agreement, answers came: After clarification from city food inspectors we were told to proceed. Members would be asked to donate monthly, soup and ingredients for sandwiches. Meals would be served on site and male church volunteers would come to monitor. At that time no money was allotted from the church finances. The support came from individual members.

However, we were off to a slow start. On occasions we stood outside to wave people in. Sister Brooks carried flyers to outreach agencies and shelters. Interest began to slowly build. A sign was hung out and people noticed. Downtown businesses noticed and secretaries looking for a lunch activity even stopped in to volunteer. One bankers' business often dropped off cookies and other food items. God was granting an increase.

Channel 19 TV Station, our neighbor, noticed and came calling. They stopped by to do a feature for their Community Affairs Broadcast. We made the news and many came.

The effort to feed and fulfill the needs of the community may have begun slowly, however, by 2016-17, the St. John Soup Kitchen had served over 5,000 meals! The accomplishment was highlighted in the September 2017 issue of the St. John AMEN newsletter (Feeding of the 5000) and reprinted in the October 2017 issue of *The Christian Recorder*. And the numbers continue to grow.

As time passed, Reverend Dr. Patrick Clayborn was appointed to lead St. John. His vision was to take the soup kitchen to the next level. The soup kitchen began offering meals bi weekly under his leadership and was included as a line item in the yearly budget.

Under our current pastor, the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, the budget for the Soup Kitchen has increased to include sufficient funding to feed the ever-increasing numbers who come.

Food is delivered to neighborhood shelters and a Community Center that provides homes for displaced youth. We also deliver meals with love to our sick & shut in members by our Caregivers' Prayer and Respite Ministry members.

Our Kitchen Service Ministry now serves hot meals and soup twice monthly. We also serve for many occasions and especially for families of our deceased members. We Serve with Love.

We appreciate and thank Pastor McCall for his vision to open the doors of St. John as a mainstream ministry which feeds anyone who comes. His legacy will live on, as we continue to fulfill the request to feed the hungry and share the "Good News."

We give God the Praise Amen.

Sexual Harassment Training Workshop

Saturday, March 14, 2020
1:00 pm, St. John AME Church



Mandatory Requirement for
all officers, ministerial staff, trustees, stewards, security
team, ministry leaders, and those working with
children and youth.

AME Proud!



Mrs. Abbiegail Hugine, her sister, Mrs. Deborah Hamilton, Frazier and The Honorable Judge Ricardo Rigual.

Congratulations!

History was made in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, when Deborah Hamilton Frazier was sworn in as the first African American ever elected to the Board of Supervisors.

The swearing in ceremony was performed by Judge Ricardo Rigual on December 17, 2019.

Frazier, who serves as the Chancellor Middle School Principal, knocked off incumbent Paul Trampe, the current chairman of the board, to win the Salem District seat. Education is a top priority for Frazier as well as affordable housing and transportation.

The Board of Supervisors sets county policies, adopts ordinances, appropriates funds, approves land rezoning and special exceptions to the zoning ordinance, and carries out other responsibilities set forth by the county code.

Deborah Frazier is the sister of Mrs. Abbiegail Hamilton Hugine and the sister-in-law of Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr.

The Pride of St. John

The Trustees of the church are entrusted with the care and maintenance of the church facility, grounds and other duties as assigned. The Trustees are nominated by the pastor and elected by the members of the Quarterly Conference. Each elected trustee serves for one year.



Brother Glenn Pippen, member Board of Trustees St. John AME Church

Brother Glenn Pippen has been the exception. Brother Pippen has been elected to the Trustee Board by the members of the Quarterly Conference forty-three times and has served forty-three terms. Thirteen of those forty-three years, he served as pro-tem of the Board of Trustees. Brother Pippen attributes his effectiveness as a Trustee to his full commitment to serve God and mankind.

Brother Pippen is also a member of the 50+ Auxillary, The Lay Organization, the Senior Usher Board, sings in the Male Chorus, and has been a member of the Sons of Allen.

He is married to Mrs. Regena Pippen. The Pippens have two adult children, Paula and Glenn (Rashida) and two granddaughters, Kyra and Keely.

Congratulations!

Three St. John AME members, Mrs. Erica Harbin, Mr. Marcus Hill and Mrs. Lydia Owens, recently passed the PMP Project Management Professional Certification Exam. The Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification is an internationally recognized professional designation offered by the Project Management Institute (PMI). As of August 2019, there were 932,720 active PMP certified individuals and 300 chartered chapters across 218 countries and territories worldwide. The exam is based on the PMI Project Management Body of Knowledge.



Mrs. Erica Harbin

Mrs. Harbin serves on the Steward Board and has been a Missile Defense Contractor for the past 9 1/2 years. She is employed with ERC (Engineering, Research and Consulting Inc. as a Business Relations Manager and serves as the ERC HSV site lead for IRES contract.

(Continued on page 19)

Church School Lesson Overview – March 2020

The Lesson reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer.

March 1, 2020

Lesson Title: A Call to Accountability

Lesson Scripture: Amos 5

Print: Amos 5:18-24

Devotional Songs: “#377” [], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: “Let Judgement run down as waters and righteous as a mighty stream.” (Amos 5:24).

For this quarter, these lessons are drawn from the book of Amos, Micah, Habakkuk, and Malachi and comprise thirty-three percent of what are referred to as the Minor Prophets.

Amos stood out in two ways. First, he had a job and returned to it after giving his prophecies. Second, he was from the southern kingdom, Judah. The Lord commanded him to speak his message to the Northern of Israel. He said the most about Israel's sins.

March 8, 2020

Lesson Title: A Prayer for Justice

Lesson Scripture: Habakkuk 1

Print: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 14-24

Devotional Songs: #412 [], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verse: “Wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he.” (Habakkuk 1:13b).

Habakkuk is among the Minor Prophets. In his book no kings are mentioned of either Israel or of Judah. The book can apply to virtually any similar scenario.

The lesson text introduced Habakkuk and his grievance to the Lord. The author of the commentary compared Habakkuk's heated expression and way of speaking with the Lord to the way Job spoke his frustration with the Lord. Although the author points out that the reason for Habakkuk and Job's questions are not the same.

March 15, 2020

Lesson Title: Consequences for Injustice

Lesson Scripture: Habakkuk 2

Print: Habakkuk 2:6-14

Devotional Songs: #77[], #251[], and #243[]

Key Verse: “Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and establisheth a city by iniquity!” (Habakkuk 2:12). Like last

week's lesson, this lesson is taken from Habakkuk. He is standing on the tower waiting for the Lord's reply to his complaints. The Lord told him to capture what he was about to be shown on tablets. A messenger could then deliver the “vision.”

The average Chaldean leader's lawless, arrogant attitude and lifestyle was detailed by the Lord. Thus, making it known that God was aware of their faults though. God still had work for them to accomplish.

Two of the five woes are covered in this lesson. The first woe covered judgment, which is reflected against the one who steals. This violated Israel's eighth commandment. The second woe spoken by Habakkuk brought attention to the Chaldeans' covetousness, which broke the tenth commandment.

March 22, 2020

Lesson Title: An Argument Against Corruption

Lesson Scripture: Micah 3-6

Print: Micah 3:1-3, 9-12; 6:6-8

Devotional Songs: #364[], #345[], and #243[]

Key Verses: “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Micah 6:8).

Micah is one of the twelve Minor Prophets. His ministry was in the latter part of the eighth century BC. During his lifetime there was turmoil and uncertainty for the northern and southern kingdom, Israel and Judah, respectively. The Assyrians were a huge threat to the northern and southern kingdoms. They were the means by which God carried out His judgment. The capital city of Samaria fell in 722 BC.

The lesson text for this week comes from the third chapter of Micah. The language is similar to that previously found in lesson 3 that came from Habakkuk 2. Habakkuk described the conduct of the Chaldeans. Micah, however, is describing the behavior of Israel. A people that should have known better.

March 29, 2020

Lesson Title: Need for Just Leaders

Lesson Scripture: Malachi 2; 3

Print: Malachi 2:1-9

Devotional Songs: #377[], #25[], and #243[]

Key Verses: “If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I

(Continued on page 19)

Church School Lesson Overview – March 2020

(Continued from page 16)

will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart" (Malachi 2:2).

In this lesson the problems addressed by Malachi are similar to those problems Israel faced in the fifth century BC in the time of Nehemiah. Nehemiah had traveled from Persia to Judah to rebuild Jerusalem's walls.

Some problems that both Malachi and Nehemiah addressed included mixed marriages, the failure to tithes, and corrupt priests. The aberrant leadership which Micah spoke fervently against had resurfaced in Malachi's day. It was as unpleasant to the Lord in Malachi's time just as it was in Micah's.

**Church School meets each Sunday at 8:45 a.m.
Classes for all ages.
Everyone is welcome!**



Weekly Prayer Call

During Lent, there will be a weekly Prayer Call each Wednesday at 5:00 pm starting on February 26th, Ash Wednesday.

The Prayer Call credentials are;

Dial in number: 1-530-881-1212

Meeting code: 876-863-940

If you miss the Wednesday 5pm call, you may call in for the replay.

The replay number is: 1-530-881-1219

Meeting code is: 876-863-940

Please join the Prayer Call each week and together we can keep each other encouraged and uplifted.

AME Proud!

(Continued from page 17)



Mr. Marcus Hill

Mr. Hill serves on the Steward Board and has been employed with SAIC, Science Applications International Corporation since 1997 and is currently an IT PMO & Portfolio Manager / Senior Program Manager.



Mrs. Lydia Owens

Mrs. Owens is a member of the Senior Usher Board and the AMEN Newsletter Staff. She is employed with Leidos Corporation as a Senior IT Project Manager.



Primary Election

Tuesday

March 3, 2020

**Polls open at 7:00am
Close at 7:00pm**





Church School Book Club

February 2020
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Discussion Date: February 15, 2020

More to Life, Billingsley, ReShonda Tate, 2019.

March 2020
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

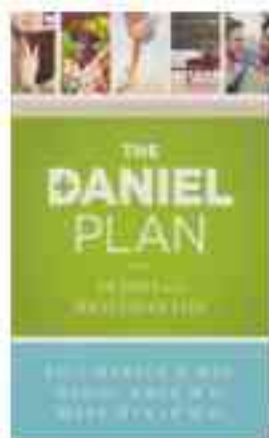
Discussion Date: 21 March 2020

Big Little Lies, Moriarty, 2019.

A murder... A tragic accident... Or just parents behaving badly? What is indisputable is that someone is dead.

Madeline is a force to be reckoned with. She is funny, biting, and passionate; she remembers everything and forgives no one. Celeste is the kind of beautiful woman who makes the world stop and stare, but she is paying a price for the illusion of perfection. New to town, single mom Jane is so young that another mother mistakes her for a nanny. She comes with a mysterious past and a sadness beyond her years. These three women are at different crossroads, but they will all wind up in the same shocking place.

Big Little Lies is a brilliant take on ex-husbands and second wives, mothers and daughters, schoolyard scandal, and the little lies that can turn lethal. – Amazon



The Daniel Plan 40 Days to a Healthier Life

This book and other resources are available on Amazon. com.
Hardcopy (new) \$15. 89 +\$H
or as low as \$1.89 (used) +\$H

Warren, R., Amen, D., Hyman, M. (2013). *The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life*. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Zondervan.

Celebrating the Life of Mrs. Alberta Jefferson



The Celebration of Life for Mrs. Alberta Jefferson was held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at St. John AME Church.

Mrs. Jefferson was born in Orangeburg, NY. She was the daughter of Frank McDonald of Decatur, AL. and Hortense Bostic of Philadelphia, PA. She graduated in 1971 from Clarkstown High School in Rockland County, NY.

Mrs. Jefferson and her family lived in Spring Valley, NY for 35 years. She was employed by LeCroy Corporation of Chestnut Ridge for 24 years, and DRS Inc. of Orangeburg, NY.

She moved to Madison County, Alabama in September of 2007 and united with St. John AME Church in 2009. As a member of St. John, she attended Church School on Sunday mornings and was very active in the Mass Choir. Everyone corroborated the fact that she loved singing.

Not only did she enjoy singing, but her husband of 46 years, Mr. Robert Jefferson, attested to the fact that she was a very kind person. This same attribute of kindness was affirmed by Sister Lorraine Parham in her tribute to Mrs. Jefferson.

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II preached the eulogy from Psalm 40:3, "And He had put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord." Sermon topic was: "I've Learned to Live Holy." Three points were emphasized in this sermon regarding a new song; 1) the lyrics are enjoyable, 2) everyone can sing along and 3) every song has a point where there is modulation-moving up a little higher in tone and pitch. Pastor Wright summarized by saying, "Sister Jefferson, modulated from sickness to rest."

Sister Jefferson was loved by her immediate family and her church family. She will be truly missed.

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 8:00 a.m. Steward Board Meeting
8 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	9 8:30 a.m. Fifty Plus Meeting CPR Ministry 1:00 p.m. (new meeting time) 5:00 p.m. History Makers Ministry 8:00 p.m. Gospel Choir Rehearsal	10	11 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Bible Study Weekly Prayer Call 5:00 pm	12	13 7:30 p.m. AMEN Staff Meeting	14 Community Day of Service 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon New Members Class 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 n. Sexual Harassment Training 1:00 pm
15 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship 135th Church Anniversary Celebration Anniversary Concert 4:00 pm	16	17 	18 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Bible Study Weekly Prayer Call 5:00 pm	19	20	21 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
22 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship YPD-LTI Daniel Payne Plaza	23 6:00 p.m. Lay Meeting	24 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	25 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Prison Ministry Weekly Prayer Call 5:00 pm	26	27	28 10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting
29 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	30 6:00 p.m. Official Board Meeting	31 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN 6:30 p.m. Church School Board Meeting				

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(256) 534-3265

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The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor



*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

INDNJC

ST. JOHN A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church
Volume 25 Issue 3

Huntsville, Alabama
March 2020

SAINT JOHN

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CELEBRATES

135th Church Anniversary



Reverend Maurice Wright, W-Servant Pastor

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Celebrating 135 Years of Service

"Sharing the Word.... Serving the People."

St. John A. M. E. Church History

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church is in the South Birmingham-Huntsville-Bessemer District of the Northwest Alabama Conference of the Ninth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was the first major religious institution for African Americans. The church was founded by Bishop Richard Allen in 1787 in Philadelphia. The church began as a protest against racial injustice to worshipers of African descent at St. George's Methodist Church. The first organization was known as the Free African Society. In 1816, the church held its first General Conference and elected Richard Allen the first Bishop. Today the church has millions of members and twenty Episcopal Districts in North and South America, England, and Africa.

The Ninth Episcopal District consists of the state of Alabama and the presiding bishop is The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright. The Ninth District was originally the Seventh Episcopal District. It was officially formed at the General Conference of the AME Church in 1868. Bishop John W. Brown was assigned as the first bishop. Between 1868 and 1920 the district was geographically reorganized several times and at different times Alabama was attached with Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. In 1920, Alabama became the Ninth District. Currently the district has five conferences.

Bishop Henry McNeil Turner organized the North Alabama Conference, beginning with Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Florence, AL, in 1878. The North and West Alabama Conferences were combined and the Presiding Elder Districts realigned under the leadership of Bishop James L. Davis. St. John is in the South Birmingham-Huntsville-Bessemer District of this conference. The current Presiding Elder is Reverend Bruce W. Hunter.

St. John Huntsville was organized by Dr. William Hooper Council and others in 1885. The first church services were held in a barber shop on the corner of Miller and West Holmes Streets. Dr. Council was ordained an elder in the A.M.E. Church. In addition to organizing St. John and serving as the first Pastor, Dr. Council was the founder and one of the most distinguished presidents of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. In 1900 the first church building was erected on Church Street. Ministers serving St. John besides Dr. Council included Reverends Patterson, Shelton, Goodlow, Todd, Brooks, Newell, Evans, Hill, Brice, Douglas, Cook, Thompson, Scott, Oliver, Woods, Lamar, White, Hughes, Howard, Stone, Dennis, Fox, Hereford, McCall and Clayborn. St. John's current minister is The Reverend Maurice Wright, II.

In 1971 the church moved into a newly erected facility at 229 Church Street. From this strategic location at the corner of downtown Huntsville, St. John opened its doors to the community. The many civic and cultural events hosted by St. John included NAACP meetings and programs, inaugural prayer service for the President of the City Council of Huntsville, graduation for the Phoenix Program, Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship and Interdenominational Ministerial Spouses Association services, voter registration, Alabama Democratic Conference meetings, Race Unity Programs, and the origination point for the NAACP Annual Martin Luther King Jr. March.

St. John continues to have a strong affiliation with Alabama A&M University through its members, outreach to students and financial support. Transportation is available for students who desire to attend worship. Four of the eleven presidents of Alabama A&M University have been members of St. John; the founder and first president, Dr. William Hooper Council, the eighth president Dr. David B. Henson, the ninth president, Dr. John T. Gibson, Sr., and the eleventh president, Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr.

St. John has active ministries for members and the community. The church purchased 53 acres of land in northwest Huntsville in 2008 and an expansion committee is currently making plans for future use of this property.

Thus Far the Lord Has Helped St. John AME

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church will be celebrated 135 years as a church, with a growing and thriving membership. Not many churches can attest to this type of longevity. The statistics are alarming. The research indicates that every year more than four thousand churches close their doors, while only about one thousand new churches are started.² It is reported that churches are closing every day for one reason or another. Sometimes churches close their doors due to a lack of finances and support from the congregants. Several churches have closed amidst some alleged scandal. And still others close because members leave the church to attend other churches, when a new pastor is assigned to the church. Nonetheless, St. John has been able to withstand the test of time. It is now able to celebrate a great milestone in the history of the church and the Huntsville-Madison County Community. What a tremendous blessing and occasion has been provided with the help of the Lord.



St. John AME Church
229 Church Street, Huntsville, AL

Scripture speaks to this in 1 Samuel 7:12, New King James Version (NKJV), "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, Thus far the Lord has helped us." Samuel's placement of the Ebenezer stone recalled not the names of the dead, but the living Lord God, the Helper of His people. Ebenezer means "stone of help" or "stone of the Helper". The explanation of the name, Thus far the Lord has helped us, can mean "as far as this geographical spot", which fits the occasion of St. John's 135 year anniversary as well. Many prayers have been answered in the past to continue to keep St. John standing and to encourage its faith in God for future blessings. The congregation will always continue to praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that is to come.



Corner Stone from the first
St. John AME at 218 Church Street
Huntsville, AL, Built in 1900.

In continuation of the praise to God for bringing the church thus far as a congregation, the members should praise God for how He has brought them thus far in their personal lives. They should consider how God has brought them as believers thus far in their relationship with Him. They should consider how God continues to keep them in their current location (i.e. home, job, marriage, school, church membership). Then as strong, committed believers, they should praise Him everyday. They should place a spiritual Ebenezer in their lives to recognize Him as their help. If so, then their faith should soar! There should be an increase in their trust. Believers, be encouraged your faith in God for future blessings, will be given by the Spirit of God who is your helper and guide.

Prayer: Lord, help us to place a spiritual stone, a marker, in our lives. Show us how you have brought us a mighty long way and to see a bright future as we await your Son's return. We recognize you as our personal Helper. May we continue to pray and praise you for bringing us thus far, by lifting up our eyes to the hills, recognizing where our help comes from. We know our help comes from you Lord who made heaven and earth. Amen.

² Krejcir, Richard, *Statistics and Reasons for Church Decline*, www.churchleadership.org, 2007.

One Night Empowerment Revival with The Reverend Doctor Jamal Harrison Bryant

It was promoted as a one night empowerment revival with renowned preacher and teacher, the Reverend Doctor Jamal Harrison Bryant, senior pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia. The flyers announcing the event had been posted. The St. John Face Book page had announced it for weeks. The Reverend Maurice Wright, II Servant Pastor of St. John AME had participated in an interview, promoting the event with WJAB, the local public broadcasting station, at historic Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. The stage was set. The musicians and singers were in place. The excitement was building.

The worship experience was held at the T. M. Elmore Gymnasium at Alabama A&M University. It was to be the closing activity to a month of African-American History events and the beginning of St. John's 135th church anniversary celebration. The entire community had been invited. Dr. Bryant's reputation for being a dynamic, spirit-filled, preacher with a strong, vibrant delivery preceded him and drew a throng of believers.

Immediately at 6:00 p.m. Stan Torain and Continual Praise Choir, took the stage and began inspiring the worshipers with "He's Able" and several other selections. Everyone was then welcomed to the event by Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., President of Alabama A&M University. The St. John Mass Choir offered two selections, preceded by an outstanding praise performance by the St. John Dance Ministry. The Reverend Bryant was introduced by Pastor Wright.



Photo by Andrew Harrison

Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. President of Alabama A&M University, Mrs. Abbiegail Hugine, First Lady, The Reverend Dr. Jamal H. Bryant, Senior Pastor New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, The Reverend Maurice Wright, II Servant Pastor St. John AME Church



Photo by Andrew Harrison

The Reverend Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant

Scripture reference was taken from Luke 10:30-35, the story of the Good Samaritan. The Reverend Bryant began by stating, "Everyone who graduated Summa Cum Laude from vacation Bible school is familiar with the story. There was a man walking from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell among thieves. They beat him, robbed him and left him for dead. Several people passed him by, a priest, a Levite, (someone representing the law), but a Samaritan stopped, had pity on him and took him to the hotel. He told the manager to take care of him until he returned." Pastor Bryant stated, he wanted to challenge everyone's theology with the sermon title, "Stop Celebrating the Good Samaritan!" Pastor Bryant shocked everyone for a minute, but went on to explain, that as an observer of the Montessori method of teaching, he had learned that, "Every unnecessary help is a stumbling block to developing independence. This should be a pronouncement for the closing of Black History Month." He stated, "That everything in creation understands that principle, except Black people.

All the creatures in the universe acknowledge that it is a part of maturation and development. And that as a people, knowing struggle as we have, we should understand that and embrace it."

Reverend Bryant continued on, "And to this hour, everyone has been shouting accolades to the Good Samaritan. I can't celebrate the good Samaritan. I'm going to lay out for you the reason why I have a beef with the good Samaritan. This young man is left for dead and I want you to see what we have been celebrating under the doctrine of an enslaved colonized religion. That in order for him to be saved, somebody who does not look like him has to save him. Someone who does not live in his community, does not understand his culture, comes in to be his saving grace because the people who live there do nothing to help him."

(Continued on page 16)

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

135th Church Anniversary!

Community Day of Service

Deborah Bland

Pastor Maurice Wright, II, of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church, located at 229 Church Street NW, Huntsville, Alabama and church members organized the first Annual Community Service Day, Saturday March 14, 2020. Sister Kay Adkins, Chairperson, was excited about coordinating the day of service because of Hebrews 13:16: "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

The rain did not prevent Pastor Wright and four teams of St. John AME Church members from giving back to the community by showing love and appreciation. Service projects included: Huntsville Animal Services; an apartment resident surprise at Coventry Apartments; volunteering at Free 2 Teach; and the Fire Station - Precinct One.

Ten members delivered 45 bags (8 to 20 pounds each) of dog food to Huntsville Animal Services (HAS), 4950 Triana Boulevard, Huntsville, AL which partners with Helping Animals Without Shelter (HAWs). HAWs was initially an arm of the police department and slowly developed into a full service department. The shelter relies on the community of Huntsville and surrounding areas to assist by fostering and adopting dogs and cats. If you would like to contribute to the shelter or adopt an animal, please contact Karen Shepard at 256-883-3524 or visit www.huntsvilleal.gov/animal for more information. Thank you to Sister Lydia and Brother Myron Owens for heading the committee and to the fantastic members who donated food for this project.



Team 1

Delivered provisions to the animal shelter with a few lucky guests, Buster and Inani.



Team 2/Apt. Surprise

Sisters Kay Adkins, Deborah Bland,
Claudienne Purifoy-Fears, the family,
Sister Tammy Johnson and
Brother Rufus Gilmore

Five members gathered at Coventry Apartments, 1505 Sparkman Drive NW, in Huntsville for an apartment resident surprise! Robin Davis, Manager, helped with the surprise by calling the resident to the office. The mother and her two children came to the office, where she was presented a check in the amount of \$135.00 towards rent and donated household supplies. Her son, who is graduating from high school in May, has encouraged his mother to continue to pursue her education. She plans to graduate with a degree in nursing this May. Her daughter is in the second grade and gave the biggest smile when asked about her favorite teacher. The resident was indeed surprised, grateful and thankful to all the members of St. John AME Church. Thank you to Sister Claudienne Purifoy-Fears for heading the committee and to the awesome members who purchased supplies for this truly wonderful surprise!

(Continued on page 6)

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church 135th Church Anniversary!

(Continued from page 5)



**Team 3...Free 2 Teach
Sorting and Re-stocking School Supplies**

Nine members gathered at Free 2 Teach managed by Jennifer Cummings. They blessed the organization by working to restock the store and warehouse and to help sanitize the school supplies. The non-profit was started by Mrs. Eula Battle, the wife of Mayor Tommy Battle. It was organized in 2012 in a garage and has over the years moved to larger locations. The current location is a warehouse where it has been for five years. It has the capacity to serve all 3,800 teachers in all three school systems and approximately 56,000 kids.

Free 2 Teach allows teachers the ability to shop six times a year for free school supplies. These supplies include such items as art supplies, crayons, craft supplies, markers, notebook paper, pencils, seasonal items, and so much more! Thank you to Sister Lisa Lomax for heading the committee and to all of the fabulous members who volunteered for this project.



**Team 4
Huntsville Fire & Rescue**

Ten members met at Fire Station-Precinct One, located at 2110 Clinton Avenue West, Huntsville, Alabama. Captain Cockrell and other firefighters were greeted by members to express a sincere thank you for all they do to protect St. John AME Church and the surrounding communities. Five year old Addison Bradford created and colored a huge thank you card which she also presented to the firefighters! An abundance of snacks and beverages were donated to the station. Also, St. John members offered to purchase lunch for the crew, but the firemen already had plans. Thank you to Sister Katrisa and Brother David Norwood for heading the committee and to the sensational members who gathered on behalf of St. John AME Church.



Thank You card by Addison Bradford

Community service projects were also scheduled for Huntsville Hospital and two nursing homes, but had to be postponed until a later date.

St. John AME Church has served the community for 135 years and looks forward to working in the Huntsville community and surrounding areas for years to come.

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church 135th Church Anniversary!

"A Solid Foundation and A Promising Future" Matthew 16:18

Bishop Seawright Preaches for 135th Anniversary of St. John

Bridget J. Floyd

A special worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 15th marked the celebration of the 135th anniversary of St. John AME Church. The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, the 133rd Elected and Consecrated Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was the special guest preacher for the event. Presiding Elder Bruce W. Hunter served as worship leader for the service. The theme was "A Solid Foundation and a Promising Future" with the scriptural reference Matthew 16:18. The Mass Choir provided musical selections that augmented the special service. The Liturgical Dance Ministry offered a powerful, inspirational ministry in dance to the recorded selection "The Blood Will Never Lose its Power".

The service began with the processional as the choir sang "Glad to be in the Service", followed by the Doxology and the Call to Worship Litany led by Sister Donna Gullatte. This was followed by the singing of "The Church's One Foundation", invocation by the Reverend Charles Glover and selection by the Mass Choir. Scripture readings were as follows: The Old Testament Psalm 100, Brother Justin York; The New Testament I Corinthians 3: 9-11 and The Gospel Matthew 16:13-18, Sister Karmen Lattimore. This was followed by the Apostle's Creed. Steward Pro Tem Marcus Hill and daughter Martine Hill highlighted announcements. Two new members who had completed the New Members Class were read into full membership. Pastor Wright, then introduced Bishop Seawright who was received in the traditional AME manner.

Bishop Seawright spoke on the topic "The Church – The Change Agent" with the text Matthew 16: 13-18. He began by referencing the challenge of keeping calm and leading in the midst of recent events, and noted the problem of fear and the importance of "listening to God's word and not leaning to our own understanding". He stated it is important to recall in these difficult times the assurances in God's Word and faithfulness. Bishop Seawright acknowledged his history of a life-threatening experience and God bringing him through and as such, stated, "I've chosen to not live in fear".



Sister Donna Gullatte
Call to Worship Litany



The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright
Delivering the 135th Church
Anniversary Sermon



The Liturgical Dance Ministry

(Continued on page 8)

"A Solid Foundation and A Promising Future" Matthew 16:18

Bishop Seawright Preaches for 135th Anniversary of St. John

Bridget J. Floyd

(Continued from page 7)

In referring to the text, Bishop Seawright stated that "Peter had the courage to confess to Jesus that "You are the Christ," which resulted in Jesus giving Peter "the keys to the kingdom because he knew who Jesus was". He went on to say that "There is no greater accomplishment than knowing that Jesus is your Savior... recognizing the role that Jesus played in your accomplishments." Returning to the sermon title, Bishop Seawright cited an analogy for The Church serving as a change agent. That is, one should think of The Church as the *thermostat*, which has the capacity to change the temperature, rather than the *thermometer* which measures/registers the temperature. He went on to cite the various problems that particularly impact the African American community and are not featured in the headlines. He noted the difference in current headlines regarding the novel coronavirus/COVID -19. Bishop Seawright encouraged giving to and feeding those in need, especially during these troubling times – reminding Jesus' words "when you did it to the least of these..."

The invitation to discipleship and call to the altar were extended by Pastor Wright.

The Anniversary Planning Committee was chaired by Steward Barbara Johnson and Dr. Tonya Perry.

May God Continue to Bless St. John - its Rich Heritage and Promising Future.



The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright



On this 135th Church Anniversary, two new members were read into full membership by Pastor Wright, Reverend Glover, Presiding Elder Bruce W. Hunter and the Board of Stewards. St. John welcomed Mrs. Barbara Vasquez and the Reverend Roberta McCoy.



Brother Reginald Pearson, Minister of Music
The St. John Mass Choir



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church 135th Church Anniversary!

St. John AME Church Unveils its Historical Marker

L. Owens and B. Johnson

What began many years ago, finally came to fruition on Sunday, March 15, 2020. Several committees had been formed over the years for the sole purpose of erecting a historical marker for St. John AME Church. The 135th church anniversary was the motivation for the St. John History Makers Ministry to accept the baton on the last leg of the relay and take it to the finish line. The initial work had been done, it was a matter of organizing the information and submitting it to the appropriate entities. Just this segment of the project took a full year to complete.

St. John first had to be listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage before applying for a marker. The forms, information and pictures were compiled and submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission. St. John was notified early in June 2019, that it had indeed been recognized as a place of significance by the Alabama Historical Commission and would be listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. Now, application could be made for the marker. The marker arrived on March 4, 2020 and the process for installation began.

On a rainy, windy Sunday afternoon, as St. John celebrated its 135th church anniversary, led by The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, the church unveiled its historic marker just outside the main entrance on Monroe Street. The weather did not deter the congregation from witnessing this historical event.

Pastor Wright, Bishop Seawright and Presiding Elder Hunter led the dedication ceremony with the Trustees and Stewards looking on. The script on the marker will bear witness to those who stop to read it, the history of St. John for many years to come. The script reads as highlighted in the adjacent frame.

Although the weather was gloomy, the 135th Church Anniversary Celebration and the Dedication of the Historical Marker will forever be etched in the minds and hearts as one of the best days in the lives of the congregation.



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church Madison County

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church, Huntsville, was organized by Dr. William Hooper Councill and others in 1885.

Dr. Councill was an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and also the founder and first president of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. The first church services were held in a barbershop on the corner of Miller and West Holmes Streets. The first church building was erected at 218 Church Street in 1900. In April of

1971 the church moved into a newly erected facility at 229 Church Street. This church was built under the leadership of the late Reverend Samuel Shelby Herford who passed on April 9, 1971, never having preached in the new facility. The Reverend Herford was succeeded by The Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall. Dr. McCall served for forty years, from 1971–2011, making him the longest serving pastor of St. John AME Church when he retired. St. John is currently in the South Birmingham-Huntsville-Bessemer District of the Northwest Alabama

Annual Conference of the Ninth Episcopal District
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage on June 27, 2019.
Marker erected in 2020 by St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church
In celebration of its 135th anniversary.

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church 135th Church Anniversary!

St. John AME Church Unveils its Historical Marker



Dedication Ceremony for the Historical Marker
Presiding Elder Hunter, Bishop Seawright,
Reverend Maurice Wright, II



Unveiling of the marker by
Trustees Phippen & Williams



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright
Presiding Prelate, 9th Episcopal District, AMEC
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter
Presiding Elder, SBHB District



St. John's Historical Marker
Recognized by
The Alabama Historical Commission



Pastor Maurice Wright, II
Servant Pastor
St. John AME Church



The marker mounted on a
"Solid Foundation for a Promising
Future."



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

135th Church Anniversary!

"Down Home, After Church, Southern Dinner"

B. Johnson

Following the unveiling of the historical marker, the benediction was given and the food was blessed. St. John had prepared a good ole fashioned "Down Home, After Church, Southern Dinner" for the congregation as a conclusion to a fantastic 135th anniversary celebration. The dinner was held in the Huntsville-Madison County's Board of Realtors' building, which sits just across the parking lot from the church. The congregation and guests were greeted by a beautifully decorated room, adorned in gold and black appointments. Bishop Seawright, Presiding Elder Hunter and Pastor Wright were escorted to their seats. The welcome was given by Dr. Tonya Perry, church anniversary co-chair and the Bishop's birthday was acknowledged by Steward Pamela Whitehead. Everyone joined in singing "Happy Birthday" to the Bishop. The serving lines were opened and everyone proceeded to enjoy, the delectable and appetizing entrees for the evening.



Dr. Tonya Perry welcoming everyone.



The Banquet Room



Down Home, After Church Dinner



135th Anniversary Banner



The Bishop Harry L. Seawright and the Reverend Maurice Wright, II with Mr. James Jamar, one of the oldest living members of St. John AME Church. Mr. Jamar has been a member of St. John for 75 years. He joined this congregation in 1945. It was truly a blessing to have him in attendance on this historical occasion.



Happy Birthday Bishop!



Bishop Seawright



Bishop's Birthday Cakes!

AME Proud!

B. Johnson

St. John AME Church Celebrating 135 years of Christian Service "A Solid Foundation and a Promising Future" Matthew 16:18

St. John's longevity has been built on the strong foundation of Christian service and commitment provide by members who have stayed the course for years. They joined St. John; worked in the ministries; supported the ministers; shared their time, talents and treasures to ensure a future for St. John and the many members yet to come. Here are just a few of the many members who forged ahead through steadfast faith, believing that what they did way back then would benefit the next generation and the next.



**Deaconess Sarah "Granny"
Davis Bell**

A centenarian (100 years old) proudly stated she joined St. John in 1932 under the Reverend Peter Robert Johnson. She has been a member of St. John AME Church for 87 years!

Mrs. Lorene Jones and Family

Mrs. Lorene Jones and her large extended family have been members of St. John for 50+ years.

The (Maria) Jones-Walton family, The Gullatte, Barbour and Franklin families.



Brother James Jamar

Brother Jamar enthusiastically recalled that he joined St. John AME Church in 1945. He has been a member of St. John AME Church for 75 years!

**The Powers Family
50+ Years
Descendants of Mrs. Dickie Powers, a long-time member of St. John.**

The Johnson (Mary Powers Johnson) family, the Wilkins (Aileen Powers Wilkins) family, the Norma Powers-Jenkins family and Mrs. Susie Powers Akers.



**The Hereford Family
60+ Years**

PKs; Preacher's Kids
Mrs. Barbara Hereford-Turner,
Rev. (Ret.) Robert Bernard Hereford

**The Fitchard Family
50+ Years
Reverend (Ret.) Horace Fitchard, Mr. Earl Fitchard and Mrs. Dorothy Fitchard O'Quinn, descendants of long-time members, Mrs. Louise Watts (Mamma Lulu) and Mrs. Sallie Fitchard.**



(Continued on page 13)

AME Proud!

(Continued from page 12)



Mrs. Idell Merrill
60+ years
membership at
St. John AME Church.



Mrs. Sarah Alls
Joined St. John AME Church
under Reverend Foxx.
She has been a member for
60+ years.



Mrs. Charlesie Brooks
50+ Years membership
At St. John AME Church.



Mrs. Evelyn Hildreth
50+ Years



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II,
Mrs. Bessie Smith and
Col. (Ret.) E.C. Smith,
the last surviving member of the
1971 St. John AME Church
Building Committee.



Col. & Mrs. James Heyward
50+ Years.



Mr. & Mrs. Burks
50+ Years
Descendant
Mrs. Brenda Evans-Burks

*"There is nothing more powerful than a people, than a
nation, steeped in its history. And there are few things as noble as
honoring our ancestors by remembering."*

... Lonnie G. Bunch III



Mr. & Mrs. William Bell
50+ Years.

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Celebrating 135 Years of Service

"Sharing the Word....Serving the People."

THANK GOD FOR OUR CHURCH

Charlie Brooks

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." Col. 3:16 (NIV)

In Colossians 3:16, Paul tells the Colossians to act toward one another in love and unity. Because Jesus has established peace, and because we are all part of Christ's body, we should be at peace with one another. Paul encourages his readers to sing to God from a heart of gratitude and to do everything while giving thanks to God.

In Colossians Paul is directly speaking to the church. We are the church. The people we worship with on Sunday mornings, other times, and other worship with on a regular must be active, diligent, local body of Christ. We get through our actions, words was created to be a place to as well as serve the unbelievable love of the Savior. As a African Methodist Episcopal bama, we have an obligation church as well as we can, with (5) kingdom currencies: Touch and Words.



believers whom we fellowship are the church. We grateful members of the to express our gratitude and attitudes. The Church minister to the believers, to win them with the member of Saint John Church, Huntsville, Alabama to love and serve the We strive to serve here "Time, Talents, Treasures,

How often do you thank God you worship and the leader-

Does your gratitude show in how you serve the church and speak about the church and leadership? Is there anything that you need to lay down on the Lord to make a shift in your heart so that you can love and serve the church with a grateful heart? Can you name several people that help lead at our church and why you are grateful for them? Can you share why you are grateful for our church, why you love being a part of it, or how our church has ministered to you or your family? We love Saint John AME in spite of the shortcomings and problems we feel that exist.

for our church, the place ship who serve faithfully?

In summary, we love this House of Worship because: (1) It is a place of worship. (2) It is a place of comfort. (3) It is a place where God's people gather. (4) It is an encouragement filling station. (5) It is a place of preaching and teaching God's Holy Word. (6) It is a place that God loves and (7) It is a place where we hear the gospel preached and gloriously souls find eternal salvation. WE LOVE OUR CHURCH!

"The Church must grope her way into the alleys and courts, and into the perilous city; into bare rooms, up broken staircases and beside the loathsome sufferer; she must go down into the pit with the miner, into the tent with the soldier, into the shop with the mechanic, into the factory with the operator, into the field with the farmer and into the store with the merchant. Like the air, the Church must press equally on all the surfaces of society; like the sea, flow into every nook of the shoreline of humanity; and like the sun, shine on things foul and low as well as fair and high, for she was organized, commissioned and equipped for the moral renovation of the whole world." Simpson

Sermon Central by Phil Dyar. "Why We Love Our Church". Oct. 20, 2017

March is Women's History Month

Lydia Owens

AME Woman and the Word Women's History Month Tribute

March is Women's History Month and that alone, is a reason to **CELEBRATE!** The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment of the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."



The late, Mrs. Valerie Faith Gary Bell,
Former Connectional Lay President

The earliest black female preacher was a Methodist woman simply known as Elizabeth. She held her first prayer meeting in Baltimore in 1808 and preached for about 50 years before retiring to Philadelphia to live among the Quakers.

This year, for Women's History Month, we honor the life of Mrs. Valerie Faith Gary Bell, a fifth-generation AME and a member of the Lay Organization since 1974. Valerie was a native of the 2nd Episcopal District, the daughter of Mr. James and the Rev. Vivian Gary. Valerie's spiritual growth and development were inspired and nurtured by the members of Mt. Zion AME Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

From birth, Valerie was taught to strive for excellence, and in 1973, she made history as the first African American graduate of Old Dominion University, School of Dental Hygiene, in the state of Virginia. Her professional career included employment as a Staff Dental Hygienist, Clinician, and Instructor, at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, and the Public Health Service of Capitol Hill in Washington DC. She continued to cultivate and enhance her leadership skills as a Marketing Manager for AT&T Inc. in Fairfax, Virginia.

After successful tenures with the United States Naval Academy and AT&T, Valerie stepped out on faith and began living her childhood dream as an African American entrepreneur. For over 25 years, Valerie was the successful owner and stylist of two salons in the D. C. metropolitan area.

Valerie dedicated her life to making a difference in the hearts and lives of others. As servants of the Lord, Valerie, her husband, and two sons were the founding members of First AME Church of Manassas, Virginia, in 1985. Valerie was recognized in the African Methodist Episcopal Church for her unwavering love for God, humankind, and being a catalyst for excellence. She has served in many capacities at the Local, Conference, District, and Connectional level. On August 7, 2017, at the 35th

(Continued on page 16)

March-Women's History Month

Lydia Owens

(Continued from page 13)

Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization in Columbus, OH, she was elected as the 14th Connectional President. Since the birth of the Lay Organization in 1912, she was the 2nd female to serve in this capacity. Valerie transitioned on February 4, 2020, after a brief illness. For over forty-six years, she was married to her best friend and the love of her life, Donald Bell, Sr. they were parents to two sons and had four grandchildren.

Many St. John members remember Valerie as the guest preacher for St. John AME Church's 2019 Founder's Day Celebration. As we honor Mrs. Valerie Bell this month, please continue to pray for strength for her family, the Second Episcopal District and the Connectional Lay Organization.

<https://womenshistorymonth.gov/about/>

<http://theconversation.com/hidden-figures-how-black-women-preach-is-spole-truth-to-power-73185>

<https://www.ame-church.com/news/death-of-connectional-lay-organization-president-valerie-gary-bell-1953-2020/>

(Continued from page 4) **One Night Empowerment Revival with The Doctor Jamal Harrison Bryant**

"The first beef I have with the so-called good Samaritan is that if he really wanted him healed, why didn't he take him to a hospital and not a hotel? He was not about recovery, he was about comfortability in his broken state. He (the Good Samaritan) never asked who did this to you? No investigation was done. The police were not called; a report was not made. There is no description of the perpetrator. He never asked where on the road this occurred? No incident report was issued to the community, to warn others, to ensure that other people didn't have to go through what the man had gone through. I want you to know that your assignment is to make sure other people don't have to go through what you went through. Your assignment is to make room for someone else. Your testimony is your classroom for your ministry. You didn't get to where you are by yourself. Somebody prayed for you. Now, it's your turn to break the curse, break the cycle in your family."

"The second problem is that he pays at the front desk, but never inquires about the condition of the young man. The Good Samaritan was willing to finance his recovery, but not invest in his future. He never went to see about the young man. Everyone should surround themselves with people who want to see them completely restored. The reason we're standing is because of a Black man with hair like lambs wool, and skin of bronze who saved us. When I think of the goodness of Jesus and all He has done for me, my soul cries out! And as the story ends, Luke never goes back to hear the young man's testimony."

"We shout, not because of a good Samaritan, but because of Jesus Christ. We keep seeing ourselves as the young man on the road and never as the Good Samaritan. God, is blessing you, so that you can bless someone else. Lift your hand as high as you see yourself going!"

In conclusion, Dr. Bryant reminded the audience that, "Every unnecessary help is a stumbling block to developing independence and that we should Stop Celebrating the Good Samaritan." The one night empowerment revival concluded with shouts of praise and hallelujah!



The conclusion of the One Night Empowerment Revival
"Lift Your Hands as High as You See Yourself Going!"



Soup Kitchen Ministry

Charlie Brooks

BRING WHAT YOU HAVE

"Bring them here to me," (Jesus) said. Matthew 14:18

"Stone Soup," an old tale with many versions, tells of a starving man who comes to a village, but no one there can spare a crumb of food for him. He puts a stone and water in a pot over a fire. Intrigued, the villagers watch him as he begins to stir in his "soup." Eventually, one brings a couple of potatoes to add to the mix; another has a few carrots. One person adds an onion, another a handful of barley. A farmer donates some milk. Eventually, the "stone soup" becomes a tasty chowder.

This tale illustrates the value of sharing, but it also reminds people to bring what they have, even when it seems to be insignificant. In John 6:1-14 it reads of a boy who appears to be the only person in a huge crowd who thought about bringing some food. Christ's disciples had little use for the boy's sparse lunch of five loaves and two fishes. But when it was surrendered, Jesus increased it and fed thousands of hungry people!

Someone said, "You do not have to feed the five thousand. You just have to bring your loaves and fishes." Just as Jesus took one person's meal and multiplied it far beyond anyone's expectations or imagination, He will accept believer's surrendered efforts, talents, and service. He just wants them to be willing to bring what they have to Him.

With the approach of the season of His suffering sacrifice for all, show that remembrance of His love for all mankind by the willingness to serve Him and the least of those who come to St. John for food on the 3rd and 4th Tuesday of each month. It serves as a privilege to celebrate this victory that He now offers each of person.

Jesus, help us to surrender whatever we have to You, knowing You can multiply a little into a lot.



Tribute to Brother Aaron Loman Freeman



St. John AME Church celebrated the life of Brother Aaron Loman Freeman on Thursday, March 5, 2020. Brother Freeman transitioned this life on March 2, 2020 with Pastor Wright at his bedside.

Brother Freeman moved to New Market, Alabama to live with his daughter and her family in July of 2017. He later joined St. John AME Church.

Sister Agnes Gilmore in her reflections on a life well lived shared that Mr. Freeman loved the old hymns of the church and loved to sing. He began attending the 50+Auxiliary Meetings on the first Monday of each month and loved the fellowship of other retirees. When he was able, he enjoyed attending the Adult Church School Class and always felt comfortable sharing his career experiences and his spiritual relationship with God.

He loved poetry and especially the poems of James Weldon Johnson. For Black History Month, he recited James Weldon Johnson's poem, "Go Down Death." He had missed making his presentation the year before, because of illness, but he was determined to share this with the class this year.

Acknowledging Brother Freeman's past career as a computer specialist, Pastor Wright used as a sermon topic, "Brother Freeman's New Operating System." The scripture reference was 2 Corinthians 5:17, Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (KJV). Three important points were communicated. First, everyone should be connected to the server-Jesus Christ. Secondly, in order to install the upgrade, there must be a shut down. Lastly, a-restart is better than the shut down. Yes, on March 2nd, Brother Freeman received a "re-start" with his heavenly Father.

Brother Freeman was a dear, sweet spirit which will be missed in this St. John congregation.



Church School Lesson Overview – April 2020

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer.

April 5, 2020

Lesson Title: God's Just Servant

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 42

Print: Isaiah 42:1-9

Devotional Songs: #358 [], #258 [], and #243 []

Key Verse: "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations" (Amos 5:24).

In this lesson we see that God was not pleased with what He saw and that he had a plan to deal with the situation. God used His prophet Isaiah to share His plan with the anguished people. Isaiah's message told the people not to lose hope, as the justice they wanted would come.

April 12, 2020

Lesson Title: Resurrection Hope

Lesson Scripture: Mark 16, 1 Corinthians 15

Print: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14, 42-45

Devotional Songs: #437 [], #272 [], and #243 []

Key Verse: "If for this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died" (1 Corinthians 15:19-20).

The Greeks were included in this lesson. The Greeks believed the soul did not die. It can be concluded from that, that they believed in some sort of resurrection. However, they could not grapple with the concept of a physical bodily resurrection. They had difficulty seeing a person who was physically dead rising up and traipsing out of the grave.

In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul is seen urging the Greeks and others past the limitations they put on the resurrection of Christ, by starting with his previous teachings on salvation. Then he asserts that Jesus Christ whom they knew died, was buried, and then rose again.

April 19, 2020

Lesson Title: Injustice Will Be Punished

Lesson Scripture: Esther 3; 5; 7

Print: Esther 7:1-10

Devotional Songs: #414 [], #345 [], and #243 []

Key Verse: "So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai" (Esther 7:1-10).

In this lesson we see that when it comes to justice, God took

the matter seriously. Although God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, we see His fingerprints all over this case. The commentary mentions a proverb warning us about digging wells and laying traps for others, as the wells we dig may become our graves. Such was the case with Haman being hanged on the gallows which he had built to hang Mordecai.

April 26, 2020

Lesson Title: The Lord Loves Justice

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 61:8-62:12

Print: Isaiah 61:8-11; 62:2-4a

Devotional Songs: #97 [], #251 [], and #243 []

Key Verses: "For I the Lord loves justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them" (Isaiah 61:8).

In this lesson God's position on justice is put beyond any doubt. The scripture shows three factors about how God views justice. The first, that God rewards people who stand for justice. Secondly, when God punishes a nation for injustice, the punishment lasts only for a certain amount of time. And thirdly, there is a strong connection between the practice of justice and economic prosperity in a nation.

Church School meets each Sunday at 8:45 a.m.

Classes for all ages.

Everyone is welcome!



Weekly Prayer Call

During Lent there will be a weekly Prayer Call each Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m. The last prayer call will be on Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

The Prayer Call credentials are;

Dial in number: 1-530-881-1212

Meeting code: 876-863-940

If you miss the Wednesday 8:00 p.m. call, you may call in for the replay.

The replay number is: 1-530-881-1219

Meeting code is: 876-863-940

Please join the Prayer Call each week and together we can keep each other encouraged and uplifted.



Church School Book Club

March 2020 **Discussion Date: 21 March 2020**
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Big Little Lies, Moriarty, 2019.

April 2020 **Discussion Date: 18 April 2020**
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

The Best of Me, Sparks, Nicholas, 2019

In the spring of 1984, high school students Amanda Collier and Dawson Cole fell deeply, irrevocably in love. Though they were from opposite sides of the tracks, their love for one another seemed to defy the realities of life in the small town of Oriental, North Carolina. But as the summer of their senior year came to a close, unforeseen events would tear the young couple apart, setting them on radically divergent paths.

Now, twenty-five years later, Amanda and Dawson are summoned back to Oriental for the funeral of Tuck Hostetler, the mentor who once gave shelter to their high school romance. Neither has lived the life they imagined . . . and neither can forget the passionate first love that forever changed their lives. As Amanda and Dawson carry out the instructions Tuck left behind for them, they realize that everything they thought they knew – about Tuck, about themselves, and about the dreams they held dear – was not as it seemed. Forced to confront painful memories, the two former lovers will discover undeniable truths about the choices they have made. And in the course of a single, searing weekend, they will ask of the living, and the dead: Can love truly rewrite the past?

Announcements

St. John AME Virtual Church

For the next two Sundays, March 22th and March 29th worship service may be viewed online.

Bible Study, Wednesdays at 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. may also be viewed online.

All can be viewed at the following sites;
Church's website...www.stjohnhuntsville.com,
click on "View Livestream"
Church's Face Book Page.....[stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)
On **YouTube** at St. John AME Huntsville or
Vimeo at St. John AME

New Members Class Canceled

The three sessions of the Spring New Members Class that were scheduled for March 21, 28 and April 18 have been canceled. Due to the rapid spread of the Coronavirus and based on the recommendations of government officials and our Episcopal District Leadership, we will not have any in-person ministry activities or meetings.

We will be in touch with you regarding the rescheduling of the classes. Next week we will mail you an information kit with material for the class, including the textbook.

Sister Nedra McDaniel, New Members Class Coordinator

Primary Election Run-Off

The Alabama Primary Election Run-Off has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, July 14th. If you are planning to attend the General Conference in Orlando, (July 7-14) you should consider submitting an Absentee Ballot prior to leaving the state.

April 15th Tax Relief

The Treasury Department and the IRS are providing special payment relief to individuals and businesses in response to the COVID-19 Outbreak. The filing deadline for tax returns has been extended to July 15, 2020. The IRS urges taxpayers who are owed a refund to file as quickly as possible. For those who cannot file by the April 15, 2020 deadline, the IRS reminds individual taxpayers that everyone is eligible to request a six-month extension to file their return.

Income tax **payment** deadlines of individual returns, with a due date of April 15, 2020, are being automatically extended until July 15, 2020, for up to \$1 million of their 2019 tax due.

Sons of Allen Fellowship Outing

Bobby Adkins

On February 16, 2020, the Sons of Allen (Men's Ministry) enjoyed an evening filled with food, fellowship, and fun at Stars and Strikes Entertainment Center in Huntsville. The event, planned as a springboard for calendar year 2020 ministry activities, allowed the Brothers of St John AME to better know each other in a fun and informal way. From the youngest teen to the most seasoned Son of Allen, an enjoyable event, filled with laughter and hearty discussion, took place.

As members gathered, they were surprised when Brother Rivers walked in with his traveling bag of bowling balls. This meant serious business was at hand. At that point we knew it was game on. While the most skilled bowlers aimed for the high score, most had more modest goals, to include keeping the ball out of the gutter. Breaking 100 would be considered a more than respectable score. To that end, each player increased their scores over the two hour event. While none of the men will be invited to join the Professional Bowlers Tour anytime soon, the level of enthusiasm for the event was voiced on many occasions.



Sons of Allen Bowling Night



Every one enjoyed the array of food choices from pizza to wings and beverages prepared by the host facility. The host staff was courteous and attentive, catering to each request for services. In addition to bowling, several brothers, particularly Willie Sandifer and Guy Ginn, showcased their skills on the chess board, providing a less taxing avenue for enjoyment and a great means for intellectual stimulation.

All in all, it was a wonderful time in spirit and in fellowship. The Sons of Allen are looking and planning ahead to quarterly outings such as this and invite all the men of St. John to join us moving forward.

Brothers Guy Ginn and Willie Sandifer enjoying a friendly game of Chess.



Sons of Allen enjoying bowling night.



April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2

3

4

ATTENTION!

Many of the scheduled April events are pending the status of local, state and national requirements for health and safety precautions. The congregation will be notified by the Pastor of cancellations and re-scheduling of events.

5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Palm Sunday 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEL Deadline	9:30 a.m. Fifty Plus Meeting 1:00 p.m. CPR Ministry 5:00 p.m. History Makers Ministry 8:00 p.m. Gospel Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Steward's Board Meeting	Weekly Prayer Call 8:00 p.m.	Monday/Thursday Service	Good Friday AMEN Staff Meeting TBA	Easter Egg Hunt
 Holy Week						

12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Easter Sunday 6:00 a.m. Combined Sunrise Service Church St. CPCA 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	 Pastor Wright's Birthday		12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study		10:00 a.m. - 12 noon Registers' Prayer and Respite Ministry STRESSLESS Caring & Spa Day St. John AME	10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club 10:00 a.m. Healing Hearts SBHB District Conference Saddle Creek Chapel Bessemer, AL

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship		11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 	6:00 p.m. Prison Ministry		10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting

26	27	28	29	30
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	6:00 p.m. Official Board Meeting	11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN 6:30 p.m. Church School Board Meeting	12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(256) 534-3265

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The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor



*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

INDNJC

ST. JOHN A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 25 Issue 4

April 2020

The Coronavirus Pandemic and The Response of the Church



Episcopal District's Response to COVID-19

(Reprinted from The Official Website of the African Methodist Episcopal Church)



Council of Bishops
African Methodist Episcopal Church

March 31, 2020

To The Connectional Church:

In light of the uncertainty around the spread and management of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Covid-19, the leadership of the African Methodist Episcopal Church has rightly placed the health and well-being of our members as the fundamental priority. Thus, it has been determined that it is wise and prudent to reschedule the 51st General Conference. The results of a series of conversations with officials in Orange County and the Convention Center, and several meetings with the Bishops, and the most recent meeting of the General Conference Commission, a decision has been made to postpone the General Conference. We are currently considering alternative dates in collaboration with the Convention Center and Officials in Orange County/Orlando that will also include dates in 2021. A date certain will be announced within the next few weeks — when all hotel and Convention Center negotiations are complete. Worldwide, COVID-19 has infected more than 800,000 confirmed cases and finding new victims to assault every day. As of this writing, more than 39,000 people have died. The necrology is growing exponentially daily. Florida is now listed as a “hotspot” with more than 5,000 confirmed cases. By Executive Order, Orange County Mayor, Jerry Demings, has issued a “stay-at-home” order.

Our utmost concern is for the safety and health of the AMEC family as we would potentially gather for our quadrennial meeting, as well as an overarching concern for public health around the globe, especially as it pertains to the novel coronavirus. We are committed to following the policies mandated by official government agencies, and the protocols of best practices to flatten the curve of new cases determined by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Concerning our General Conference, all manner of possibilities are being considered. Also being considered is the economic impact that a shortened General Conference Program might have as a long-term benefit to the denomination, for the local church, and for delegates, alternates and observers attending the Conference. All considerations, however, must include the full participation of Districts 14 — 20.

Please pray for the health of the world, the nations, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright
President
Council of Bishops



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church A Response During this Pandemic

"Sharing the Word....Serving the People."



A Message from the Pastor

St. John Family,

I pray that you are blessed and safe during this time of global crisis. We want to ensure you that your health and safety is our top priority and concern. After prayerful consideration and consultation with our Episcopal District Leadership, local and state officials as well, St. John is closely monitoring the Coronavirus. We want to ensure the health and safety of our members and their families.

Effective immediately, we will not have any in-person ministry activities or meetings outside of our regular Worship Service. For regularly scheduled meetings, you are encouraged to use the church conference call line or videoconference. Streaming is available via Facebook, YouTube and the church website. Our Sunday Worship Services will be streamed at the regular service time. We have moved to an on-line Bible Study until further notice. Please adhere to these recommended precautions:

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with antibacterial soap and hot water.
- If you cough or sneeze, do it in your upper sleeve. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue.
- Stay about six feet (Social Distancing) away from someone who is sneezing or coughing.
- After using hand sanitizer four consecutive times, you must wash your hands.

Please note the following symptoms of Coronavirus Disease 2019

- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Fever
- Sore Throat

As a means of prevention, please wash your hands before and after contact with objects and people. Please use common sense practices during this pandemic, which includes social distancing, as well as consistent sanitary practices. As a church family, let's renew our commitment to check on our senior population and those we know are sick and shut in. Those members who are facing critical needs, please contact the church office at 256-534-3265. If you are experiencing any symptoms, do not go to the hospital, call your family physician and refrain from attending any events as your safety and the safety of others is a priority. Please keep in mind that this is an ever-changing situation, and we are continuously receiving new guidance as the national situation changes.

Above all, our faith reassures us that even in a moment of crisis, God is still in control. We are praying for families who have been affected and for the state of our world. We are reassured by the word of Psalm 46:1 which declares "God is our refuge and strength and a present help in the time of trouble."

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Servant Pastor
St. John AME Church



Kids' Corner



Green, Christina, St. John AME Church, 2019, Historic Huntsville Foundation, Color Me Huntsville, Huntsville.

Coping with Stress Associated With Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Dr. Bridget Floyd



There is currently in existence a pandemic, referred to as novel coronavirus disease, which was discerned in the year 2019, known as COVID-19. This created a confirmation for those who were not aware, that they are living in a global society. The respiratory virus has moved around the world, first reported as occurring in China and then spreading exponentially over several months to other countries, including the United States – with every state reporting cases of the virus. Some areas in the United States and other countries have been referred to as “hot spots”. This historic event is expected to continue for many months and medical experts anticipate

that it will take eighteen months to two years to develop a vaccine. Research is under way to find safe and effective medication to treat the disease. News reports are frightening. Individuals are experiencing “a new normal” in terms of schools and businesses closing as well as many states and localities issuing “stay at home orders” and curfews. There are existing mortality rates and predictions of worsening statistics that are difficult to fathom. There are daily updates and news briefings from governmental, medical and experts at the national, state, and local levels.

Needless to say this is a stress-producing event. It would be atypical to feel totally calm under such circumstances.

Following are some suggestions for coping with the stress associated with this COVID-19 emergency.

It is normal to feel anxious but there are ways to cope. People vary in terms of how they respond to stress.

- Stress management/reduction is important because *increased or prolonged stress can compromise the immune system – making a person more susceptible to illness or reducing the capacity to recuperate from illness.*
- Children respond differently from adults and vary based on the age of the child. They may respond with irritability, crying, acting out, have a drop in grades, sleep or appetite problems, or may return to an earlier level of development – e.g. bedwetting or soiling themselves.
- Children do well when their questions are honestly answered [without dire details/information should be guided by the age of child] but not with too much information. Control/limit their access to newscasts but do not give misleading information in an effort to reassure or “protect” the child. Strike a balance.
- Arm yourself with accurate information/data. Identify and avoid myths. Use reputable news and other media / websites.
- Control the amount of news coverage that you watch or read. Turn off the television. Inform yourself. Avoid getting overwhelmed by information.
- Avoid a “doomsday” perspective. Focus on the here and now, positive attitude, healthy practices. If a person thinks it is the end of the world, they will feel like it is the end of the world.
- Adhere to guidelines for remaining healthy: *Washing hands frequently; Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Maintain appropriate physical distance from others. This vigilance can be reassuring – you know you are taking reasonable precautions.*

This is important particularly if you are in an at-risk group: For example, age 60 or above; underlying medical condition(s) at any age; a first responder; your position or agency has designation as “essential”.

- *Physical distance is important for physical health but social isolation is not good for emotional/mental health*

(Continued on page 6)

Coping with Stress Associated With Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Dr. Bridget Floyd

(Continued from page 5)

- ◆ Connect with family and friends by phone call, text, face time, skype, social media, etc. Technology can be helpful with virtual socialization.
- ◆ Laughter is a good stress reliever. Watch television, videos, movies, especially comedy.
- ◆ Engage in hobbies/areas of interest: Read, write poetry, draw, journal, and/or listen to calming music.
- ◆ Use relaxation techniques: Deep breathing, meditation, yoga, or other relaxation techniques.
- ◆ Exercise – at home, or a safe distance from others – e.g. outdoors, not in a gym.
- ◆ Eat and sleep well. This is the foundation for good physical and mental health. If there is a significant change [increase or decrease] in sleep and/or appetite, this can indicate depression or anxiety.
- ◆ Cope with the change/stress of being around family more than usual – e.g. adults working at home, young people who are home from school/college. Enjoy family time but also have alone time for each person (age appropriate supervision for young children).
- ◆ Use faith-based strategies for reassurance. Religious readings, meditations, prayer, music/songs, and virtual religious services can aid in coping, provide reassurance and have a calming effect.
- ◆ Seek guidance from a financial professional to cope with stress associated with economic/stock market changes or investment issues. Making major investment or financial decisions – or any type major decision – is not recommended when under major stress. A professional can give guidance for the individual's specific circumstances.
- ◆ Seek assistance from a mental health professional as needed to address stress, anxiety, depression, unhealthy coping strategies such as substance use, impulse control issues – e.g. gambling, etc. Professional associations, regulatory boards, and insurance companies are providing guidelines and approval for telehealth for primary care and mental health treatment.



History records instances of pandemics and major economic downturns that people have survived/overcome. Successfully managing stress, seeking appropriate professional health care and financial guidance are key strategies.

Bridget J. Floyd, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist

COVID-19 and Your Finances

B. Adkins

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is affecting nearly every aspect of American daily life. Business owners and workers alike are worried about their companies, jobs, weekly and monthly bills, debt accumulation, pending or planned retirement, care of seniors, child education, or any other financial impacts. Americans are worried (and stressed) about the collapse of the economy. It has been over a decade since there has been a collapse of this magnitude within the United States Financial Institutions.

Money experts around the country are working 24/7 covering COVID-19 financial implications, the passage and consequence of the 2020 COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Package, and the consequences that matter most to Americans, and their wallets.

In order to provide a simpler understanding of the financial crisis, and the impacts, here are some commonly asked questions (and answers) related to the COVID-19 and the government's response to the economic fallout. Sources for research include Forbes, Market Watch, and the Small Business Administration (SBA) websites.



What has the US Government done to support individuals and business owners affected by COVID-19?

In response to the crippling economic effects of COVID-19, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which infuses more than \$2.2 trillion from the United States government into the economy. The CARES Act was signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 27, 2020.

Will there be money in the CARES Act for individual use to make ends meet?

Yes. Funding is attached to the stimulus for most working-class Americans, both individuals and married couples.

Who Qualifies for a Stimulus Check?

- A Social Security number is required to receive a payment, reports the Wall Street Journal.
- According to pages 144 and 145 of the 880-page rescue plan, nonresident aliens, those who can be claimed on someone else's tax return as a dependent, and estates or trusts are all excluded.
- An earnings threshold based on adjusted gross income will mean no checks for some Americans.

How Much Money Will I Receive?

The CARES Act provides direct cash payments of up to \$1,200 for most adults, or \$2,400 for married couples filing jointly, plus \$500 per child under 17.

To get the full amount, your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on your 2019 tax return (or 2018, if you haven't already filed for 2019) must not exceed the following:

Individuals: \$75,000

Head of Household: \$112,500

Joint Return (Married Couples): \$150,000

Note: You can find your adjusted gross income on line 8b of Form 1040 on your most recent Federal Tax Return.

If you make too much money to receive the full amount, you may still receive a smaller check. Reduced stimulus payments

COVID-19 and Your Finances

B. Adkins

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will go out to individuals who make up to \$99,000 and married couples who make up to \$198,000.

What if I Don't Normally File a Tax Return?

Senior citizens, Social Security recipients and railroad retirees who are not otherwise required to file a tax return are eligible to receive an economic impact payment.

When Will I Receive My Stimulus Payment?

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on April 2 that payments will begin to show up in bank accounts in about two weeks, according to USA Today. For those without direct deposit, he said it should be a matter of "weeks."

How Will I Receive My Check?

If you gave bank information to the IRS on your 2018 or 2019 taxes, the payment will be made electronically.

For those who do not have direct deposit set up with the IRS or have changed banks, you could be waiting longer for your payment to be issued by mail. It will be sent to the address on file with the IRS.

Do I Have to Pay Taxes on the Payment?

The money that you receive from the CARES Act is not considered taxable income, according to Forbes, MarketWatch and other major news sources that were checked for this article.

Will I still get the check if I owe the IRS some money?

Yes. If your refund would normally be seized to pay a tax debt, that should not happen here. The law says no offsets for existing federal tax debts.

I have parents that are senior citizens, and I claim each of them as a dependent. Can I get a check for either of them?

Per the CARES Act, no. For purposes of getting the extra \$500, the Stimulus Bill uses the same definition as you would use for the child tax credit. The sticking point in most cases is age, as the child must be under age 17 at the end of the tax year. That means you do not get \$500 for a child above the age of 16, even if they live with you and eat your food and spend your money and sleep in your house. The same is true for adults.

Will There Be an Additional Stimulus Payment?

This is a one-time payment, but the Trump administration has not ruled out additional economic relief packages in the future. Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi has indicated the possibility of additional Stimulus Bills if the economy is too slow to recover. If drafting and passage of the CARES Act is an indication, expect bi-partisan support in Congress.

Who Qualifies for COVID-19 Unemployment Benefits?

Unemployment benefits apply to anyone who qualifies for, or is already enrolled in, a state unemployment program. To

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COVID-19 and Your Finances

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qualify for state unemployment, you are typically required to have been laid off due to no fault of your own. This generally excludes workers who quit or are fired.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program portion of the CARES Act also temporarily grants eligibility for these unemployment benefits to some of the following, per CNBC:

Self-employed individuals

Independent contractors

Gig economy workers

Some part-time employees

Some furloughed employees

New employees who were subsequently let go



These workers who would not qualify for unemployment in normal circumstances must be able to prove they are unable to work as a direct result of the coronavirus emergency in order to be eligible.

When Will the Unemployment Benefits Start?

Per the U.S. Treasury Secretary, as soon as possible. Though it really depends on your individual state. Standard guidelines for receiving your unemployment checks allow for 2-3 weeks between successful application and the first check arrival, but that may be impacted by both the urgency to get this money in the hands of individuals and the high volume of applicants.

Some states also require a one-week waiting period after a successful application for unemployment.

Can I Receive the Unemployment Payments if I am a Freelancer or Gig Economy Worker?

Yes. In an unprecedented move that was geared toward putting the money in the hands of as many American workers in need as possible, the government will be taking unemployment applications from 1099 workers.

You must be able to prove that the coronavirus emergency is preventing you from gainful employment through these alternative work arrangements.

I feel like I will be facing a lay off soon. How can I better prepare for this?

- ◆ Here are simple steps to soften the landing if you are laid off.
- ◆ Build Your Savings: Reduce your expenses to the absolute necessary items, i.e. Rent/Mortgage, Utilities, Car Payment.
- ◆ Stop Nonessential Spending: Eliminate the niceties, coffee, take-out, travel (Stay at Home Orders will help here),

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COVID-19 and Your Finances

B. Adkins

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and those monthly luxuries or personal play items.

- ◆ **Prepare Your Creditors:** Call them and give them a heads-up that you will likely be late on payments. Many lenders have been shown to work with debtors early into this financial crisis.
- ◆ **Know (and Use) Your Benefits:** Research the CARES Act for opportunity. As a taxpayer, some of this money is your contribution.
- ◆ **Update Your Resume and Portfolio:** Start early and get your name out to potential employers, even as many are losing their jobs. Companies are still thriving during the COVID-19 economy. This may be the moment that pushes you in a new direction.
- ◆ **Research Your Career Field:** Locate career opportunities that align with your education and professional training and experience.
- ◆ **Begin Networking:** Do not be afraid to start marketing your talents. This is no time to be embarrassed at losing your job. Over 10 million people filed for unemployment benefits within two-week reporting period ending 03 April 2020. You are not alone.

Remember, over 10 million Americans lost their jobs over the last two weeks of March 2020. Get started now. Apply for all financial support opportunities that are offered. Be persistent, track down, apply and claim cash that the government is providing as soon as possible. Be relentless about finding the dollars and the assistance.

For example, you might qualify for a Small Business Administration (SBA) Coronavirus Paycheck Protection Program loan and have it forgiven. This program was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The guidelines for qualification and payout protection are detailed on the SBA site. It is worth pursuing.

I am already close to retirement. Should I go ahead and file for Social Security?

Most financial advisors would recommend waiting until age 70 to start collecting Social Security. However, this is not a normal circumstance.



Age 62 is the earliest you can possibly take Social Security. But taking it that early means you only get a partial benefit. For every year you wait after 62, you get a benefit that is roughly 8% larger. This growth in benefit happens all the way until you reach 70, at which point your benefit stops growing. As such, from a dollars and cents perspective, it is usually best to wait if possible, to claim Social Security benefits.

However, in today's challenging economic climate, a lot of people in their 60s may unexpectedly find themselves jobless.

Should your work come back, you are allowed to earn up to \$18,240 annually when you are under full retirement age. If you cross that threshold, \$1 will be deducted from your benefit for every \$2 earned above the limit.

But do not worry, you will get the money back once you hit your full retirement age!

The Stock Market has lost as much as 30% of its value over the last 30 days. Should I sell my stocks or stay in the mar-

(Continued on page 11)

COVID-19 and Your Finances

B. Adkins

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ket?

Keep things simple and remember why you are investing. The key thing to recall when you are an investor is your retirement horizon. Basically, how long will it be before you need the money in your retirement account? If the answer is a decade or more, the crazy ups and downs of the market in the short-term have no bearing on your long-term plan. Historically, the market has made positive gains over every ten-year period since 1929 (Example: 1929-1939, 1950-1960, etc.).

Are there ways that I can improve my finances during or because of the COVID-19 financial crisis?

- ◆ Yes. Here are a few simple ways to improve your financial position during COVID-19.
- ◆ Create Two Different Budgets: Simple. Construct a "Stay at Home" budget and a "Back to Work" budget. Fuel prices are at 10-yr lows, but with many Americans working from home, or worse, recently unemployed, there are savings from low fuel consumption. Factor that into the "Stay at Home" Budget. Conversely, consider the items no longer needed, or that could be excluded, from the "Back to Work" budget. Now is a good time to purge the non-essentials.
- ◆ Prepare Your Income Taxes: The federal tax filing deadline has been changed from April 15 to July 15 because of the coronavirus pandemic, but that does not mean you should delay filing for three months.
- ◆ Secure a Lower Credit Card Interest Rate: Contact your creditors and ask for rate relief. Now is the time lenders are adjusting to receiving some payment, as opposed to "No Payment". They may be willing to work borrowers.
- ◆ Ask for help, if needed: Call your lenders and ask about reduced payments. Check with your landlord, mortgage lenders, or car loan financiers regarding payment delays.
- ◆ Compare Auto Insurance Quotes: Use this opportunity to negotiate a better rate.
- ◆ Review Your Monthly Subscriptions: Use this time to reassess monthly or annual subscriptions. Decide what is truly needed against what is nice to have.

Is this a time to purchase stocks?

Yes. Stock prices are low. If you are a long-term investor, there are great companies that have been affected by COVID-19 with much lower stock prices. These companies were sound prior to the crisis and will likely bounce-back quickly once we are through the crisis. Now may be the time to reconstruct your investment portfolio. This may be the opportunity to "buy-low" and ahead of the pending recovery.



Also, if you are fortunate to have remained employed well into the COVID-19 Crisis, and participate in a Company Sponsored 401K Savings Plan or contribute consistently to a ROTH or Traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), those weekly or monthly contributions (often with company match for 401Ks) will yield positive returns if, and when, the markets recover. Remain positive and think of the downturn as a chance to purchase good companies at bargain prices.

Remember, God is in control of all things. Being good stewards of what we have been blessed with is our calling. This is a reminder that good Stewardship helps us prepare for earthly crisis. As such, know that God is responsible for all that we have, and will bless us according to His Will and His Way. If He has done it before, He can and surely will do it again, to include blessing our finances and employment. Be safe and even during this crisis, enjoy the blessing.

Important Updates due to COVID-19

D. Bland

United States[®]
**Census
2020**

United States Census Bureau

In mid-March, homes across the country began receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail—all without having to meet a census taker.

The Census Bureau is using the internet to securely collect information. In order to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire online you will need the 12-digit Census ID found on the correspondence mailed to your home. Go to my2020census.gov to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire. If you need help completing the 2020 Census questionnaire call toll free 1-844-330-2020.

Counting every person living in the United States is a massive undertaking, and efforts begin years in advance. Here is a look at some of the key dates along the way, as they are currently scheduled:

March 12 - March 20: Households received official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.

April 1: This is Census Day, a key reference date for the 2020 Census—not a deadline. This day is used to determine who is counted and where in the 2020 Census. When you respond, you will tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020, and include everyone who usually lives and sleeps in your home. You can respond before or after that date. You are encouraged to respond soon.

April 29 - May 1: The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days. As part of this process, the Census Bureau counts people in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets, and at non-sheltered, outdoor locations such as tent encampments.

April 16 - June 19: Census takers will work with administrators at colleges, senior centers, prisons, and other facilities that house large groups of people to make sure everyone is counted.

The Real ID Star License

Enforcement date for the Real ID (Star Driver's License) has been extended: Due to circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the national emergency declaration, the Department of Homeland Security is extending the REAL ID enforcement deadline beyond the current October 1, 2020 to October 1, 2021.



The Star ID is an extra layer of identification if you plan to board a commercial aircraft for domestic flights or enter certain military bases and regulated federal facilities. The Real ID Act of 2005 was passed by Congress in response to terrorism committed in the United States. This Act, also allows you to use your unexpired United States passport.



Runoff Election

Governor Kay Ivey announced the Primary Runoff Election will be held on **July 14, 2020**.

Election information can be found at the official election website:

<https://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/election-information/2020>

Securing Absentee Ballots:

Election Date November 3, 2020
General Election November 3, 2020
Registration Deadline October 19, 2020

Absentee voter deadlines

Application by mail October 29, 2020
Application in person October 29, 2020
Submission by mail November 2, 2020
Submission in person November 2, 2020

Absentee Ballot Applications may be obtained from Brother Eddie Sherrod, Sister Eva Smith or Sister Barbara Johnson.

Important Updates due to COVID-19

D. Bland

AME Proud



IRS Tax Deadline – Federal Tax Returns

The 2019 income tax filing and payment deadlines for all taxpayers who file and pay their Federal income taxes on April 15, 2020, are automatically extended until **July 15, 2020**. This relief applies to all individual returns, trusts, and corporations. This relief is automatic, taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms or call the IRS to qualify.

This relief also includes estimated tax payments for tax year 2020 that are due on April 15, 2020.

Penalties and interest will begin to accrue on any remaining unpaid balances as of July 16, 2020. You will automatically avoid interest and penalties on the taxes paid by July 15, 2020.

Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the July 15 deadline can request a filing extension by filing Form 4868 through their tax professional, tax software or using the Free File link on IRS.gov. Businesses who need additional time must file Form 700.

State Tax Returns

This relief only applies to federal income returns and tax (including tax on self-employment income) payments otherwise due April 15, 2020, not state tax payments or deposits or payments of any other type of federal tax. Taxpayers also will need to file income tax returns in 42 states plus the District of Columbia. State filing and payment deadlines vary and are not always the same as the federal filing deadline. The IRS urges taxpayers to check with their state tax agencies for those details. More information is available at <https://www.taxadmin.org/state-tax-agencies>.



Sister Roselyne Machen

While many Americans sit idly by watching the news and pondering every new COVID-19 pandemic medical report, St John AME member and Steward, Roselyne Machen is serving our country on the frontlines in the battle to neutralize COVID-19 also known as Coronavirus.

Sister Machen, a Certified Nurse Practitioner, stepped forward in faith to fulfill her servant calling by volunteering to be deployed to Fort Lauderdale, FL to serve in one of the hardest hit areas of the country. Sister Machen supports a mobile hospital, set up by the Federal Government, which serves greater Fort Lauderdale and surrounding communities.

In the midst of a crisis that has exposed tremendous deficiencies within our government agencies, doctors, nurses, first responders, local hospitals and staff have borne the heavy lifting in the COVID-19 fight. They are sacrificing daily and serving selflessly in the absence of critical personal protective equipment.

Sister Machen represents the finest of God's children and continues to display the highest professional and spiritual character.

Sister Machen is married to Brother Sedrick Machen and has one son, Mr. Daniel Haygood.



St. John AME Church Salutes and Thanks all the doctors, nurses, hospital staff, EMTs, Paramedics, fire fighters, police, first responders, grocery store clerks, grocery store stockers, pharmacy clerks, all service providers and those deemed, "essential workers," who have remained on the job, in harms way, so that we might have some semblance of normality. Thank you, on behalf of a grateful nation.

Brother Bobby Adkins II

St. John AME Steward, Bobby Adkins II, a Senior Manager, Strategy and Business Development, with Lockheed-Martin, Sikorsky Aircraft, was the recipient of the 2020 Sikorsky Sustainment Breakthrough Award, presented 25 Feb 2020 at the annual "Sikorsky - International Sales Conference" in New Haven, CT. The award recognizes individuals who have performed admirably in developing new business accounts; reestablishing and successfully growing previously dormant accounts; and greatly exceeding new order, delivery, and sales expectations.



Brother Adkins (center), accompanied by Natalie Previte (left), RMS Sikorsky Vice-President of Strategy & Business Development, and Dan Schultz (right), President, Sikorsky Aircraft Company

Brother Adkins performed exceptionally during 2019, focusing on HH/UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter Post-Production Services and Support. His customers include the Department of Defense; Department of State; Customs and Border Protection; Department of Homeland Security; and U.S. Partner Nations via Foreign Military Sales, each flying Black Hawk Helicopter variants, in support critical day-to-day operations.

Brother Adkins credits seeking the Holy Spirit for guidance during challenging periods; a reliance on God to keep him safe during periods of extensive travel; a trust in Jesus for providing him wisdom that keeps him patient and attentive in the midst of hectic operations and customer missions; and a loving family for providing a supportive and loving environment that enables success.

Brother Adkins is married to Mrs. Kay Adkins and they have two children, Collin and Samantha.



Sister Claudinette Purifoy-Fears

St. John AME Trustee, Claudinette Purifoy-Fears, a member of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) Antiterrorism team based at Redstone Arsenal, AL, was recognized as an integral part of the team earning the top large-unit honor at the 18th Annual Army Worldwide Antiterrorism (AT) Training Seminar. The event was held from 24-28 Feb. 2020 at the Shades of Green Hotel and was hosted by Headquarters Department of the Army.



Mrs. Claudinette Purifoy-Fears

"The team's tireless efforts to sustain and improve readiness, increase awareness and safeguard the workforce, information and facilities were duly acknowledged with this award," said Bill Marrero, AMCOM Protection and Property Division chief.

"The AMCOM team's solid foundation of professionalism, attention to detail, and its partnership with U.S. Army Materiel Command, Installation Management Command and other agencies contributed to our success," AMCOM Commanding General MG Todd Royar said.

As a result of Sister Purifoy-Fears expertise and contributions to the team's efforts, AMCOM received an exceptional rating for best practices during AMC's FY19 triennial assessment. "More importantly, AMCOM's expertise and management of the AT program resulted in zero incidents and the highest level of protection for our people, programs and facilities," said.

Sister Purifoy-Fears is married to Brother Anthony Fears.





Soup Kitchen Ministry

Charlie Brooks

DURING HARDSHIPS, DO OTHERS SEE GOD'S LOVE IN YOU?

Charlie Brooks

"My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare. Turn to me and be gracious to me for I am lonely and afflicted." Psalm 25:16-17. NIV

When we go through storms, life can be frightening. Storms filled with gulps of wind and rain often come to us. These storms drive serious prayer from us during those times when we cannot see our way.

God can take us through those scary and unknown places, when we get thrown in directions we really do not expect. We feel like we are hanging on for dear life sometimes. We think, "Save me God from it all!" Who will save us when things go from bad to worse? God is always there, waiting with mercy! We, as believers share with others, that they are not alone. Whatever hardships await us as a result of COVID-19; Jesus is able to bring us through the storm. He can help us put our feet back on solid ground.

We remember, especially now that He is The Lamb of God. The Son of God who came as the sin-and problem barrier for the whole world. He lived a perfect life and assumed full responsibility for all of our transgressions and guilt. Through His death on the cross, those who trust Him as Savior will be made righteous and holy in the eyes of the Father. This worldly grief will be lifted up when we are in a scary, dark and joyless place. As we release our temporal desires and problems, let us look to the gift of His Resurrection and know the good that He has in store for us.

When we look to Him by trusting Him, we are united with Him and can experience that same power that raised Him up. That same power will help us live renewed and regenerated lives. We look forward to a fuller and more meaningful life because we have hope in Christ.

"Oh, what relief we will feel when the storm passes and we will feel safe?" Unknown

© 2020 by Charlie Brooks

Habitat for Humanity Fall Build

Tami McGhee

St. John AME Church partnered with other local churches and organizations for the Habitat for Humanity 2019 Fall Build home for the Mujahid/Rice Family. The home is located at 6317 Maywick Drive. Brother Jesse Johnson represented St. John at the build dedication held on Saturday, February 29, 2020. Sponsors for the home are St. John AME Church, Alabama Housing Finance Authority, ALPHA Foundation, First Missionary Baptist Church, Church of the Nativity Episcopal Church, Faith Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, and New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, and gifts in kind from



St. John AME partnership sign at the Habitat Fall Build



The Mujahid/Rice Home

St. John has been a building partner with Habitat for Humanity since 1995. The partnership has built twenty-five homes for twenty-five deserving families.



Church School Lesson Overview – May 2020

The reviews were written by Brother Kenneth Parham.

May 3, 2020

Lesson Title: A Vision of Restoration

Lesson Scripture: Zephaniah 3

Print: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Devotional Songs: “#364” [], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast” (Zephaniah 3:19).

According to Internet research, it is noted that Zephaniah, one of twelve minor prophets of the Bible, prophesied during the period after the destruction of the holy temple and the conquering of Judah by the Babylonians. It is noted that during this time period many Israelites were scattered (captured or fled) into surrounding foreign lands. It is noted via Wikipedia as a reference that Zephaniah 3 speaks on the wickedness of Judah, God’s punishment of the wicked and, an offer of hope for Judah.

In this lesson, Zephaniah brings good news to the faithful children of Israel (Judah) who did not abandon their faith. Zephaniah indicates that God who has never left their midst has heard their cry and will take judgement against the wicked in Judah (those who had turned away from God and taken up false gods and adopted the customs of foreign nations); Zephaniah points out that even those appointed over the children of Israel (judges and priests) had abandoned their responsibilities.

The prophet indicates that God will also take out his judgement against the enemies of Judah that were responsible for mocking the children of Israel and their God causing the scattering of the Israelites throughout foreign lands. The prophet made it clear in Chapter 2 of the book of Zephaniah that God will seek vengeance and destroy the nations of Philistia, Ethiopia, Ammon, and Assyria. God vows to gather His chosen children and bring them home and He will restore their prominence and fortunes before all nations.

May 10, 2020

Lesson Title: Peace and Justice Reign

Lesson Scripture: Zechariah 8

Print: Zechariah 8:1-8, 11-17

Devotional Songs: #424[]; #251[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: “I have purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; do not be afraid” (Zechariah 8:15).

Zechariah, another minor prophet, in verses 1-8 speaks to Judah on behalf of God of His promised restoration of Judah. God indicates that He cannot wait to live amongst Judah (Jerusalem being called the holy city that sits at the foot of what is called the Mount Zion – the holy mountain). During that time, old men and women will be able to sit outside while the city streets will be full of young children playing. And even though this promise may seem unimaginable to the few Israelites in Judah who still believes, God wanders if His words are even impossible to God. God reiterates that He will save His people from neighboring countries and bring them back home where God vows that these are His people and He will be their God (the covenant made between God and Abraham).

Zechariah continues to relay God’s promise to Judah in verses 11-17 as he speaks on how God will deal with the remaining faithful children of Israel that are left. He promised that his judgement will not be harsh, he plans to show them love and will provide their daily needs – fruit, produce and water. God promises that just as Judah’s enemies consider them a curse, God will save them and will consider them a blessing. God indicates that His words are true just as He dealt with Judah’s ancestors when they sinned. Until their deliverance, God asks the children of Judah to speak truth to one another, be tender in one’s judgement, attempt to make peace in one’s judgement, avoid devising evil acts of the heart and love no false gods.

May 17, 2020

Lesson Title: Practice Justice

Lesson Scripture: Jeremiah 21

Print: Jeremiah 21:8-14

Devotional Songs: #412[]; #258[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: “Thus says the Lord: Execute justice in the morning, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed” (Jeremiah 21:12a).

Jeremiah is the prophet in this lesson. He provides God’s response to a plea of help from King Zedekiah, king of Jerusalem. Judah is about to be seized by King Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. God’s response was that not only will God not help Judah but God first will exact punishment upon Judah and then turn whatever is left over to the King of Babylon to finish. God instructs Jeremiah to tell the people of Judah that He is about to unleash great anger and great wrath within the walls of Jerusalem. Jeremiah is also to indicate to the people of Jerusalem that they have two op-

(continued on page 17)

tions. Either they can stay within the walls of Jerusalem and die by God's hand under the sword, by famine or by a plague; or they can walk outside the gates of Jerusalem, live and be considered prize of war by the Babylonians.

Under either decision to be made, God also instructs Jeremiah to tell King Zedekiah to execute justice within Jerusalem every day or else watch God's anger only increase in intensity. God wanted to let Jerusalem know that no matter how seated in safety Jerusalem thought it was, God's vengeance will burn like a fire that cannot be quenched; consuming all.

May 24, 2020

Lesson Title: Repent of Injustice

Lesson Scripture: Jeremiah 22

Print: Jeremiah 22:1-10

Devotional Songs: #97[]; #77[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "Act with justice and righteousness." (Jeremiah 22:3b).

In this lesson, God through Jeremiah revisits His wrath on Judah. Jeremiah picks up and repeats God's instructions from Jeremiah 21. God demands that King Zedekiah execute justice in Judah by ensuring that those robbed by an oppressor is treated fairly, and by providing protection to widows, orphans and the alien to ensure they are not subjected to violence. God declares that if Judah acts with justice and righteousness, He will allow future kings of Judah to sit on the throne that King David once occupied. Otherwise, God will unleash His wrath bringing destruction to the house of Judah.

God makes a comparison of Judah to the former Gilead; both cities of splendor with lots of greenery. But God indicates that if Judah turns away from Him, He will send enemies to ravage the land, cut down and burn all the trees and make Judah a desert; an uninhabitable city. Even travelers passing through will understand how a great nation was destroyed for abandoning the covenant of their God and worshipping other gods. They will say do not mourn for the dead but for the scattered ones that will never see their native land again.

May 31, 2020

Lesson Title: Repent of Injustice

Lesson Scripture: Hosea 11-12

Print: Hosea 11:1-2, 7-10; 12:1-2, 6-14

Devotional Songs: #221[]; #112[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "Hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God." (Hosea 12:6).

God, through Hosea, wanted to send a message to the chil-

dren of Israel. God indicates that He always loved Israel. His love was so deep that He brought Israel out of captivity even though they would wander to other lands and to worship other gods, still he loves them. And based on their stubbornness, God would not release them from the consequences of their behavior. But the relationships shown between God and the chosen ones has always been one of give and take with the well-being of His people in mind.

God indicated that he destroyed Adamah and Zeboim (when He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) but His heart towards the Israelites had soften; He also indicated that He dealt with Ephraim for making a treaty with the Assyrians in order to sell oil to Egypt. God reminds the children of Israel that He is God and if needed He would take the Israelites back to the days when they were living in tents (in the wilderness). God reminds them that He has given multiple prophets the same vision to share with the Israelites and yet they do not heed. Therefore, as Jacob fled punishment only to work fourteen years in the land of Aram to obtain wives and as Gilead worshipped bulls on altars at Gilead (holy place where Joshua and the Israelites landed after using twelve stones to cross over the Jordan River), God will constantly remind the Israelites of their many sins and insults toward Him and He will bring His wrath on the Israelites.

During the month of April
Church School will meet on ZOOM Meeting.

Topic: Church School Zoom Meeting
Time: Sundays 9am - 9:45am (Church School)
Midday Fellowship, Mon. - Sat. 11:30am

From a computer, tablet, or cell phone
Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MYdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1lR3NXZz09)
[pwd=MYdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1lR3NXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MYdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1lR3NXZz09)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112
Password: 017348

From a telephone: One tap mobile
+1 312 626 6799, 462687112# US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099, 462687112# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 462 687 112
Password: 017348



Church School Book Club

April 2020
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Discussion Date: April 18, 2020

The Best of Me, Sparks, Nicholas, 2019

May 2020
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Discussion Date: May 16, 2020

An American Marriage, Tayari Jones, 2018.

Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive, and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into the routine of their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to twelve years for a crime Celestial knows he did not commit. Though fiercely independent, Celestial finds herself bereft and unmoored, taking comfort in Andre, her childhood friend, and best man at their wedding. As Roy's time in prison passes, she is unable to hold on to the love that has been her center. After five years, Roy's conviction is suddenly overturned, and he returns to Atlanta ready to resume their life together.

This stirring love story is a profoundly insightful look into the hearts and minds of three people who are at once bound and separated by forces beyond their control. *An American Marriage* is a masterpiece of storytelling, an intimate look deep into the souls of people who must reckon with the past while moving forward—with hope and pain—into the future.

— Amazon

YPDers on The Move

L. Parham



Jordan Vasquez, Mrs. Debra Weatherspoon, and Zaria York

Miss Zaria York and Miss Jordan Vasquez represented St. John YPD at the Ninth Episcopal District Leadership Training Institute held at the Daniel Payne Community Plaza in Birmingham, AL.

The theme for the event was "FRESH EYES: Seeing the Christ in our Midst." The youth were encouraged to see themselves as Christ sees them, and so set an example for other believers in Speech, in Conduct, in Love in Faith and in Purity.

Jordan and Zaria participated in a workshop entitled, "How to Let your Light Shine." They shared these reflections:

"I enjoyed the meeting because it talked about the history of the AME Church and who started the church, Richard Allen and Sara Allen."...Jordan Vasquez



Jordan Vasquez, Mr. Davon Elders and Zaria York

"I enjoyed the cards that had all the famous people like Sara Allen, Daniel Payne, Bishop William Paul Quinn and many more. It was a good experience for YPD. I very much enjoyed the privilege to come. Also I didn't know that they named schools after them.".....Zaria York

Mrs. Debra Weatherspoon, recently appointed by Bishop Harry Seawright as the Ninth District YPD Director, presented her initiatives for moving the YPD forward. The initiatives include YPDers;

- ♦ Exploring the benefits of being politically active and exercising their right to vote, educational literacy and college tours.

The meeting also included the election of new Episcopal YPD officers. Mr. Davon Elders relinquished the office of president to Ms. Ciara Giles of the Southwest Conference.

It was an exciting and informative meeting. Many thanks to our delegates Jordan Vasquez and Zaria York.

Announcements



St. John AME Church Worship Service Live Streaming

Until worship returns to the sanctuary, the 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms.

- Church website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com
Click on "View Livestream"
- St. John Face Book Page: [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)
- [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8) at St. John AME Huntsville or
- Vimeo at St. John AME

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study
Wednesday 12 noon and 6:00 p.m.

St. John Face Book Live Stream
Visit at [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using
Givelify, PayPal, Cash App or sending your offering to the church via U.S. Post.

Sending via U.S. Post Office; Complete the form below, cut along the dotted line and submit in an envelop
with your check.



Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

229 Church Street NW • Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Reverend Maurice Wright, II Pastor

*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?
I will pay my vows unto the Lord. (Psalms 116:12, 14a)*

Date _____ ☐ Visitor ☐ Member
☐ Member, check box if change of address
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____ ☐ Verified

➕ Check each box that applies Amount

☐ Tithes	_____
☐ Offering	_____
☐ Benevolence	_____
☐ Sunday School	_____
☐ Soup Kitchen	_____
☐ Daniel Payne	_____
☐ Building Project	_____
☐ Holiday Food Box	_____
☐ Other	_____
TOTAL	_____

St. John's Caregivers' Prayer and Respite Ministry Partners with The Alabama Cooperative Extension System

The St. John Caregivers' Prayer and Respite (CPR) Ministry partnered with the Alabama A&M and Auburn University Alabama Cooperative Extension System last year. The CPR Ministry was established in 2015 at St. John with the primary purpose of supporting and encouraging the members who were caregivers. Caregivers were identified in the congregation and were supported in the care of their loved one.

During the month of November, which is Caregivers' Appreciation Month, informative workshops were planned for the caregivers. The topics included Medicare Benefits, Part A and B, Long-term Care Insurance, and Estate planning. A review of community resources, which were available for the caregiver and the cared for, through the TARCOC Agency, Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments was also a topic during workshops. TARCOC is an agency which provides many services to the aging community in the northern regions of Alabama and the services are usually free.

Along with the informative workshops, the CPR Ministry, served as a liaison between the church and the sick and shut in members. Partnering with the Soup Kitchen, the CPR Ministry members delivered meals to the sick members and their caregivers every third Tuesday of each month. The CPR Ministry members had an opportunity to visit with the cared for members and encourage the caregivers. The motto of the ministry is: You're Not Alone.

During 2019, an Alabama Lifespan Respite grant proposal was awarded to the Alabama Cooperative Extension and St. John AME Church's CPR Ministry. The grant would provide funding for additional workshops and activities for caregivers. Mrs. Donna Gullatte, a member of St. John would be the manager of the grant and the organizer of the events. Different activities were planned for each month.

The activity for the month of March was "Eating For Good Health." CPR members and caregivers gathered at St. John on March 2, 2020 for the second of nine planned activities. Invited guest speakers were Ms. Shonda Miller, Regional Extension Agent-Nutrition & Health Specialist, who spoke on eating right for caregivers. Also speaking was Chef Will the Palate, chef and restaurant owner of Chef Will The Palate @ Lowe Mills. Chef Will was voted one of the Best Vegan Restaurants in the Country by the Food Network.



Mrs. Donna Gullatte
Introducing the guest speakers
for the Eating for Good Health
Workshop.



Mrs. Donna Gullatte, Chef Will and
Mrs. Shonda Miller, presenters for the
Eating for Good Health Workshop.

Ms. Shonda Miller shared twenty tips for good health in 2020. Of the twenty, the most important tips were to watch portion sizes, be active, and learn to read the new food labels. Chef Will brought samples of his homemade juices to soothe everything from the common cold, to gout, to food allergies. The attendees enjoyed the presentations as well as the samples.

The Caregivers' Prayer and Respite Ministry meets on the first Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Caregivers and others are welcomed to join in. Mrs. Abbiegail Hugine, is the ministry leader.

The next planned activity is scheduled for April 18, 2020, "STRESSless Caring and Spa Day." Due to the COVID-19 Shelter-In-Place requirements, this may be a virtual presentation via the ZOOM Meeting platform. If so, further details will be forthcoming on how to join the meeting.

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Caregiver's Ministry May 4, 2020 2:00 p.m. Women's Health Month "Taking Care of Me" Caregivers' Tips & Tricks				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AAMU Founder's Day Worship AMEN Deadline	8:30 a.m. Fifty Plus Meeting 1:00 p.m. CPR Ministry 5:00 p.m. History Makers Ministry 6:00 p.m. Gospel Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Stewardess Board Meeting	12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	Christian Ed Training Nashville, TN		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Mother's Day			12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study			10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club 10:00 a.m. Healing Hearts Min.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Women's Day Graduate Recognition YPD Meeting	Official Bd. Meeting 6:00 p.m.	11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study			10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	memorial DAY	11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	6:00 p.m. Prison Ministry		

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(256) 534-3265

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Website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com

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The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor



*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

INDNJC

ST. JOHN

A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 25 Issue 5

May 2020

Class of 2020



What Should Have Been

B. Johnson

It is May 2020 and the end of another school year. However, this year ended on March 16, 2020 not May 21st as it should have. Schools closed. Students and teachers were sent home. Parents teleworked from home and tried to fill the gap of teacher, activities' coordinator, and lunchroom worker. This was a new normal. By now the prom date should have been secured, tuxedos should have been reserved, prom dresses, shoes and accessories decided. Corsage and boutonnieres should have been ordered, restaurant reservations made, and limousines scheduled for pick up. Haircuts, hair dos, mani-pedis done and poses for pictures rehearsed. That is, what should have been.

Invitations to the most important day of a graduate's life should have been ordered and mailed to family and friends, near and far. Caps and gowns hung on the closet door waiting to be paraded into an arena. Balloons not ordered. Cards not selected. Cakes and party favors not purchased. Excitement of lining up for rehearsal with your friends from elementary and middle school—not scheduled. Kinfolk not coming. Grandparents cannot come. Photos not taken. Smiles and laughter not heard. Pomp and Circumstance not played. Walking that walk across that stage with pride and machismo will not happen. Shaking the hand of the people who thought you would not make it and those who proved you could. Signaling to your parents from your seat, "This is for you." Messages on mortarboards of career aspirations and love for parents...maybe next time. Parents rushing to find parking spaces and the best seats, not happening. This is what should have been.



The after-party that will not be attended. The good-byes that will not be said in person. The tears that will not be cried while embracing your bestie, will not happen. The memories that cannot be shared. The congratulations from strangers who remember that experience will not occur. This is what should have been.

What should have been. What a bomber! Thank you COVID-19 for making the Class of 2020's graduation from pre-k to kindergarten, moving on-up from Kindergarten to first grade, bridging from elementary, to middle school, to high school and graduation from high school a real challenge. Really? COVID-19? My Senior year of college? It took me 4, 5, years to get to this milestone. And this year of all years, the planned celebration will be shelved. The gifts, cards and well wishes will arrive. But the celebration which had been planned for the last four years to commemorate this achievement will be attended by only ten of my closest friends and family.

Graduates, from pre-K to college and those post-graduate school scholars, you will rise above and overcome this setback, this disappointment. Many years ago, young, high school graduates and college age students were being asked to leave their comfort zones, to take up arms and defend their country. While disappointing as this year has been, the Class of 2020 was asked to sacrifice the comforts of celebrations. Unfortunate as it may seem, you too were being asked to sacrifice to save the lives of your friends and family members, just in another way.

The poet Robert Frost penned a poem, *The Road Not Taken*, for just such a time as this. The last lines read, "Two roads diverge in the woods and I took the one less traveled by and that has made all the difference" (Frost, 1916). The graduates of the Class of 2020 have a choice, to continue looking back at "What Should Have Been," or looking forward with great anticipation to brighter days ahead. The choice is yours, which road will you choose?

Frost, R. (1916). *The Road Not Taken*. *Academy of American Poets*. Retrieved on 07 May 2020 from <https://poets.org/poem/road-not-taken>.

From the Pastor's Desk

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II Servant Pastor
St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church



My Beloved Family,

Greetings in the Name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. I pray you and your families are well and safe during this crisis. In spite of all that is going on around us, we are confident that God is in complete control. This has been a challenging time for all of us, nevertheless, we are still standing strong. God's grace and mercy has kept us, and we are thankful.

This year has been especially hard on our students. Ending the school year in an unconventional manner was extremely challenging. Our seniors missed out on many activities they have looked forward to since the beginning of their senior year. We take this opportunity to salute each of them for having completed all of the necessary requirements to cross the finish line. Congratulations are extended to our high school graduates as well as our college graduates. Thank you for your hard work and tenacity. Additionally, we celebrate with all of our students who are being promoted to the next grade, I am confident that you will have great success during the next academic year.

We have all been watching the news and listening to the reports of states that are dealing with the question of when to reopen. This is also a conversation that we as a church are having with the leadership on every level. The African Methodist Episcopal Church under the leadership of Bishop Harry L. Seawright, President of the Council of Bishops, is also addressing this subject. I want to assure you that I am concerned about the safety and welfare of each of you. Therefore, St. John will remain closed to all in-person worship services and meetings until such time as we feel it is safe. We will continue to broadcast Bible Study and our Sunday services on our media platforms and Church School will remain assessable through the conference call. In the upcoming weeks we will have an Official Board meeting through the Zoom Network. Details about this meeting will be forthcoming soon. Family, I want to thank you for your continued stewardship throughout this pandemic. Your faithfulness through your tithes and offerings is a blessing to the work of the ministry of St. John Church. During this crisis, we have remained prayerful for all of our senior and sick and shut-in members. I ask special prayers for our families that have lost loved ones during this shut down. Even in the midst of what seems to be total chaos, we are still able to share the Goodness of the Lord. Sister Annie Cook is off of the ventilator and communicating with the doctors and gaining her strength each day.

Family, thank you for keeping my family and me lifted up and encouraged. I am grateful for your phone calls and cards, they have been a source of inspiration and joy. We miss each of you and look forward with great anticipation to a safer time when we can return. You are in our constant thoughts and prayers.

Peace & Blessings,
Pastor

Congratulations High School Graduates!

St. John AME Church Salutes the 2020 Graduates and Retirees Dr. Jeanette Jones

St. John AME Church annually recognizes the church family members who have made significant achievements or reached significant milestones in their lives. St. John congratulates each of you on your outstanding accomplishments. The Pastor, officers and members are so proud of you.

Jared Mykel Burns **Huntsville High School**



Jared Burns

Jared Mykel Burns has been a member of St. John AME Church since birth. He dedicated his life to Christ at the age of 9 under the leadership of the late Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall. He has selflessly been involved in numerous church activities such as the Children's Choir, Junior Usher Board and The Young Peoples Division.

Jared managed to maintain an average of A's and B's, while working part time for Outback Steakhouse and currently Home Depot. He is an avid lover of all sports, but decided to embrace his love for baseball. He was a member of the Huntsville City Babe Ruth Baseball teams from 2017 to 2020, playing pitcher, center fielder, and right fielder for the Phillies, Braves, and Bandidos. His part-time work and extra-curricular activities and accomplishments have allowed him to gain vital life skills such as time management, patience, stability, teamwork, independence and good work ethics. Jared will graduate from Huntsville High School with memories of laughter, hard work and dedication while serving his church, community, and school. These last four years will remind him of valuable moments that can be carried along as he pursues a career in welding at J.F. Drake State Technical and Community College in the Fall of 2020. Jared is the son of Ms. Janel Williams.

Jabbar Daniel Haygood **Huntsville High School**



Jabbar Daniel Haygood

Jabbar Daniel Haygood, is a native of Huntsville, AL. He was baptized at St. John AME as a baby, and grew up with the love and care of the St. John Church family. He has always been an active member in the church. At a very young age, he began serving as a member of the children's choir, the Young People Division (YPD), and now the Junior Usher Board.

During the summers of his high school years, Daniel participated in other activities such as the Robotics program at J. F. Drake State Technical and Community College; Alabama A&M University's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation STEM program for High School students; Volunteer programs at Crestwood Medical Center Surgical Department; and a volunteer program with Health Rocks. Although Daniel is very athletic, he enjoyed participating in community programs that support his academic career goals, which has helped him to be consistently on the A-B honor roll while enrolled in several AP science classes.

Daniel will graduate from Huntsville High School with a GPA of 3.4. He was selected and awarded a Presidential Mentorship Academy Scholarship from the University of North Alabama where he will major in Biology. After the completion of his Baccalaureate degree, Daniel plans to attend UAB to pursue a degree in Optometry.

Daniel would like to thank his church family for all the love and support shown to him over the years. He is the son of Mrs. Roselyne Machen

Congratulations High School Graduates!

Eddie Whitehead, Jr
Columbia High School



Eddie Whitehead, Jr.

Eddie Whitehead, Jr is the son of Eddie Whitehead, Sr. and Pamela W. Whitehead. He has one sibling, Kimberly Rae. Throughout his school years he has been very active in church, extra-curricular and community activities. Eddie has always loved school and began his pre-school education at the Redstone Arsenal Child Development Center. He has successfully completed all of his graduation requirements at Columbia High School.

Eddie was involved with the Weekend Scholars Program, sponsored by the Greater Huntsville Chapter of the Links, Incorporated where he was exposed to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematic (S.T.E.A.M.) and had the opportunity to meet and connect with students across the Huntsville/Madison Community with similar interests. Rounding out his high school experience, Eddie has been a part of several cultural programs that focused on self-awareness, college readiness and community service. To name a few, Eddie was proudly presented to society as a Beau in the 2018 Beautifillion, sponsored by the FunSet Social Club. As

well, in February 2020, he served as an escort in the Debutante Ball, which was sponsored by Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Eddie is an active member of St. John AME Church and has participated in numerous activities over the years. Eddie's spiritual journey began when he was baptized as an infant in 2003 by the Reverend Dr. Homer L. McCall. He has been a life-long member of St. John. He routinely participates in local, district and connectional events. Eddie faithfully attends worship weekly, has served as YPD President, is a member of the Junior Usher Board, regularly attends Church School, has attended YPD Leadership Training Institutes (LTIs), has attended youth programs at South Birmingham Huntsville Bessemer District Annual Conference, has attended several Summer Meeting/ Christian Education Conferences, and attended the Connectional Christian Education Conference held in the 6th Episcopal District in Atlanta, Georgia in 2018.

Eddie plans to attend Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. His ultimate goal is to become a Physical Therapist.

You Have Excelled **Poet: Catherine Pulsifer**

Your schooling, you have done so well
You are now graduating, you have excelled.
We are so proud of you
And we wish you success in all you do!

Now you venture on the journey of life
There will be ups and downs and some strife.
But always look forward, do your best
Find the good, it will eliminate the stress.

Success is found by those who do
Don't let anyone stop you from being you.
A positive attitude you do display
It will help you on your way!

Congratulations on your success
We wish you love and happiness!



Congratulations College Graduates!



Miss Chelsea Carter

Chelsea Brianna Carter, University of Mississippi. Graduating *Cum Laude*. B. A. Psychology Minor in Neuroscience and Chemistry. She is a Pre-Med student. She has been inducted into the University of Mississippi's Who's Who Class of 2019-2020. She is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society, Secretary for the Columns Society, Historian for Minority Association of Pre-Health Students, Student Assistant for Student Success for the Center of Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement, and Undergraduate Research Assistant for the Department of Psychology for the Anxiety, Depression, Emotion, Personality and Temperament. Chelsea was also the Treasure and Finance chair for the Theta Psi Alpha Kappa Alpha Chapter. She earned a Cheerleading Scholarship for 2016-2018.

Chelsea has applied for a post graduate Medical Research Fellowship. She plans to attend Medical School. Chelsea's parents are Mr. Clarence and Col. (Ret.) Felicia Carter.



Miss Andrea L. Davis

Andrea L. Davis is a native of Chicago, IL and a member of St. John AME Church. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work with honors, *Cum Laude* Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. Her future plans include continuing her studies at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University where she has already been accepted for the Advanced Standing Masters of Social Work Program. Ms. Davis is the daughter of Ms. Amy Hogle.



Miss Carmella Goree

Carmella Goree, a native of Detroit, Michigan, and a member of St. John AME Church. She is the daughter of Ms. Donna Goree. She will receive her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University with honors, *Cum Laude*. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in Public Health at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

(Continued on page 7)

Congratulations College Graduates!

(Continued from page 6)



Miss Kennedy Harris

Kennedy Harris, is a native of Huntsville, AL and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginold Sanderson. She will receive the Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in biology and minor in Material Science from Tuskegee University with honors, Cum Laude.



Mr. Ricardo Love

Ricardo Love, is a graduate of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Marketing with honors, Summa Cum Laude. Mr. Love is currently pursuing career opportunities in his field of study. He is also exploring the possibility of attending graduate school to further his education. His main objective in life is to continue to build upon the Christian values which have been instilled in him, while offering positive contributions to society. Ricardo is a member of St. John AME Church. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Randy (Rickshel) Love. Mrs. Marie Sanchez is his grandmother.



Miss Kaitlyn McClung

Born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama, Kaitlyn McClung graduated *Summa Cum Laude* with a B.A. in English from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (AAMU). While at AAMU, she played trombone in the Marching Maroon and White Band, worked as a Resident Assistant in the dorm, and served in multiple leadership positions. These positions include the team lead of the honors program debate team; president of Sigma Tau Delta, International English Honor Society; president of the Pre-Alumni Association; and SGASenator for Diversity of Inclusion.

Kaitlyn says she is grateful for the love and support of her church family. With letters of recommendation and the help of her St. John family, she has won multiple scholarships, including the First Lady Foundation, National & Huntsville Alumni Associations, Redstone Community Women's Club, MMW Band, and more. She thanks God for allowing her to graduate debt-free.

Following graduation, she will be attending the University of Alabama on a full assistantship for a M.A. in English literature. Her career aspirations are to become a documentary filmmaker and a professor in English literature, exploring intersectionality in the Black community. Ms. McClung is the daughter of Ms. Kathlyn Dulaney.

Congratulations on Your Retirement !

2020 Retiree

Our retiree is no stranger to the community and is an active member of our church family. She is fully engaged in a number of organizations and auxiliaries vital to the operation of the church.

Mashonda Lynette White



Ms. Mashonda White

After 22.6 years of dedicated service to the Telecommunications Industry, Mashonda White, Technical Solutions Architect, retired from NOKIA.

Steward Mashonda began her career in 1997 at Lucent Technologies in Naperville, Illinois after graduating from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. Mashonda began as a Test Engineer on the SESS legacy hardware platform which led her into Integration (Network and Solution) with Alcatel-Lucent to learn more in-depth IP Multimedia Service (IMS) product knowledge. Time spent traveling and working in the field on Telecommunication Service Provider networks (i.e., AT&T and Verizon Wireless) stirred an interest in Mashonda becoming a Solutions Architect with Nokia on Virtual Applications and Cloud Platforms. She retired from her career as a Technical Solutions Architect in December, 2019.

NOKIA benefited greatly from Mashonda's skills and ability to translate legacy applications to virtual environments and communicate technical material to non-technical audiences. Mashonda is a native of Huntsville, Alabama and the fourth child of the late Melvin Louis White Sr. and Linda Faye (Ford) White. She moved back home to Huntsville to help provide care for her father while Teleworking with Nokia. She joined St. John AME, Huntsville under the Reverend Doctor Patrick Clayborn in September of 2016 after being a member of St. John AME Church in Aurora, IL for 18 years under the Reverend Jesse Hawkins Jr. At Aurora, Mashonda was active in the church as a Steward, Holy Steward, Media Ministry, and Birthday Club Captain.

Since retiring, Mashonda enjoys volunteering her time and looks forward to what GOD has in store for her.

Congratulation to our retiree as she moves to the next level of service and hopefully some relaxation in her new revitalized life! Best wishes for your future successes both personally and in any new business venture you may or may not choose to take in your new revitalized life.

Primary Runoff Election 2020



The Primary Runoff Election has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, July 14, 2020**. Due to COVID-19, voting by Absentee Ballot will be open to more individuals. Anyone can vote by Absentee Ballot during this runoff election. You must first submit an application for an Absentee Ballot. Absentee Ballot Applications can be obtained from the Alabama Vote website (www.alabamavote.org). You can print the application or complete the application on line. Complete and return the application. Your ballot will be sent to you in the U. S. Mail. Follow the instructions for submitting your ballot. The deadline to register to vote in the runoff election is **Monday, July 29th**. The last day to submit a request for an Absentee Ballot Application is **July 9, 2020**. The deadline to return an Absentee Ballot is **Monday, July 13, 2020**.

Academic Achievement

Lydia Owens

Samantha Alexandria Adkins
Liberty Middle School
Promoted to 8th Grade
Parents: Bobby and Kay Adkins

David Maurice Bailey
Academy for Science & Foreign Language
Promoted to 6th Grade
Parents: Marcus Bailey and Marketha McCulley

Johnathan Marcellus Bailey
Academy for Science & Foreign Language
Promoted to 9th Grade
Parents: Marcus Bailey and Marketha McCulley

Addison Bradford
Central Elementary School
Promoted to 1st grade
Parents: Willie and Jamela Bradford

Janise Ayanna Burns
Huntsville High School
Promoted to grade: 11th grade
Parent: Janel Williams

Michael James Clark
Madison Academy
Promoted to 12th grade
Parents: Michael and Yvette Clark

Aviera Ford
Monrovia Middle School
Promoted to 8th grade
Grandparents: Stanley and Lisa Lomax

Ann Marie Gaines
Promoted to 6th grade
Blossomwood Elementary School
Parents: Jerald and Adria Gaines

Jerald Gaines III
Huntsville Jr. High School
Promoted to 8th grade
Parents: Jerald and Adria Gaines

Anthony Harbin
Hazel Green High School
Promoted to 11th grade
Parents: Glenn and Erica Harbin

Jessica Harbin
Moores Mill Intermediate School
Promoted to 6th
Parents: Glenn and Erica Harbin

Joshua Bernard Hereford
Buckhorn High School
Promoted to the 12th Grade
Parents: Alice Hereford and Carlos Lamar

Blake Johnson
Morris Middle School
Promoted to 8th grade
Parent: Pamela Little

LeeAnna Johnson
Holy Family Regional Catholic School
Promoted to the 5th grade
Parents: Ron & Tammy Johnson

Valora Johnson
Dawson Elementary School
Promoted to 3rd Grade
Parent: Rakita Sconiers

Vayla Johnson
Dawson Elementary School
Promoted to 1st. Grade
Parent: Rakita Sconiers

Verdie Johnson
Dawson Elementary School
Promoted to 5th Grade
Parent: Rakita Sconiers

Jayla N. Mack
Columbia High School
Promoted to 12th Grade
Parent: Laticia Mack

Academic Achievement

(Continued from page 9)

Anthony O'Bryan Mack
Williams Middle
Promoted to 9th Grade
Parent: Laticia Mack

Henry Preston Smiley
Riverton Intermediate School
Promoted to 5th Grade
Parents: Candice Smiley and Kevin Caudle

Skyler Townsend
St. John Paul II Catholic High School
Promoted to the 10th
Parents: Ron & Tammy Johnson

Alijah Webb
Rainbow Elementary
Promoted to 5th grade
Parent: Tonya McCree

Ariyana Webb
Rainbow Elementary
Promoted to 2nd grade
Parent: Tonya McCree

Kimberly Rae Whitehead
Decatur High School
Promoted to 11th Grade
Parents: Eddie Whitehead, Sr. & Pamela D. Whitehead

Cayden Wilson
Williams Elementary School
Promoted to 4th Grade
Parents: Robert and Shayla Wilson

Chloe Wilson
Williams Elementary School
Promoted to 4th Grade
Parents: Robert and Shayla Wilson

Isaiah Maurice Wright
Austin Middle School
Promoted to 9th Grade
Parents: Rev. Maurice Wright, II and Rev. Joretha Wright

Joy McKenzie Wright
Jones Valley Elementary School
Promoted to 7th Grade
Parents: Rev. Maurice Wright, II and Rev. Joretha Wright

Zaria Janae York
Providence Elementary School
Promoted to 5th Grade
Parents: Shay Williams and Justin York

College Students

Collin Adkins
Mississippi State University
Major: Industrial Engineering
Senior
Parents: Bobby and Kay Adkins

Josiah Gullatte
Auburn University
Major: Wildlife Biology
Sophomore
Parents: Karl and Donna Gullatte

Maya Ifekauche
Auburn University
Major: Computer Science
Sophomore
Parent: Attorney Geneva Fontenot

Walter Nikolby Jenkins
Troy University
Major: Finance
Senior
Guardians: Kenneth and Lorraine Parham

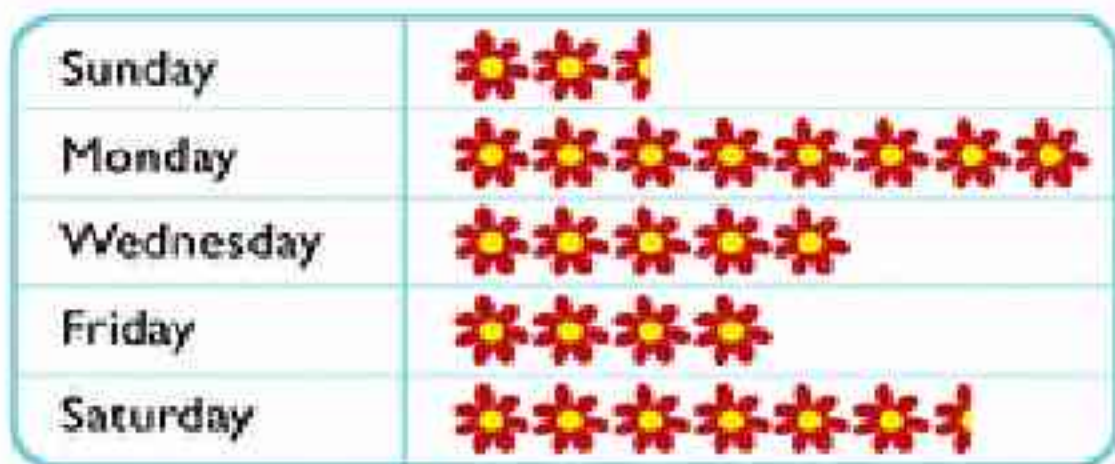
Wallace Edward Parham
Calhoun Community College
Major: Emergency Medical Technician
Final Year
Parents: Kenneth and Lorraine Parham



KIDS' CORNER

Pick a Flower Pictograph

Stefanie is helping her mom plant flowers in the garden. Find out how many flowers Stefanie planted in the past few days by reading the pictograph below. Then answer the questions. Remember, each flower in the pictograph stands for 2 flowers.



 = 2 flowers

1. What does this symbol represent? 

2. How many flowers did Stefanie plant on Wednesday?

3. On which day did Stefanie plant the fewest flowers? How many did she plant that day?

4. On which day did Stefanie plant the most flowers? How many more did she plant on that day than on Sunday?

5. Draw symbols to represent 5 flowers.

Virtual Ministry: Reflecting on a New Normal

Brother Bobby Adkins

COVID-19 and Coronavirus. This acronym and name have dominated 2020 and seemingly turned the world upside down. Did anyone see this coming? As of this writing, per data from Johns Hopkins University, over 66,000 Americans have died from the virus, with many more deaths not reported. Few areas of public life have been spared the impact of the coronavirus. Businesses have closed, access to public spaces have been severely lessened, and community worship, per individual state directives, have been highly restricted. With the number of corona cases in the United States racing well past one-million people infected, phrases such as Shelter-in-Place, Social Distancing, and Stay 6ft Apart have entered our daily vocabulary and will not soon depart. Live sporting events, concerts, and student related activities, such as spring graduations, have been postponed, or cancelled all together.



Pastor Maurice Wright II has maximized the use of Social Media to preach the Word of God via the Facebook and Vimeo app.

The wearing of facemasks and rubber gloves in public spaces reflect the new normal and has been written into law in many states. For some, telecommuting and ordering take-out have replaced long days in the office and sit-down dinners at their favorite restaurants.

Families are constrained in many ways, not being able to visit aging parents and grandparents. As we settle into this new paradigm, the daily life of the believer, to include the habits of selfless service and community worship, have changed dramatically. Fortunately, the AME Church has prepared us to continue some areas of ministry without significant interrupts.



The use of Zoom Meeting has enabled a effective and well-attended Church School, as well as daily in today's lockdown during the week.

One of the staples of the AME Church is the standard of effective connectional ministry. AMEs pride themselves on reaching across districts, collaborating with other AME churches, and engaging with fellow members at general conferences, district meetings, life events, connectional prayer, and group training sessions. The AME ability to commune as a collective church body is second to none. This spiritual desire to stay connected has provided the church with a necessary resolve, aided by a solid technological blueprint, to effectively navigate the COVID-19 era. The AME way is to make every effort to stay connected, using every tool in the digital toolbox.

While regular attendance at Church School, Sunday Worship Service, Wednesday Bible Study, and Ministry Meetings may have been taken for granted prior to COVID-19, the ability to communicate as a church body has never been more needed or appreciated. Most believers have a need to engage and commune together. Many believers truly long for corporate fellowship. To meet this demand and to enable long-distance engagement, St. John has stepped forward in a big way by expanding its electronic presence, showcasing a newer digital footprint, and enhancing the online virtual worship experience.

Under the leadership of Pastor Maurice Wright II and First Lady the Reverend Joretha Wright, St. John has always leveraged social media to present vital church news and information, and to market St. John to the local community. However, due to COVID-19 implications, the online worship experience has risen to a whole new level. Specifically, for the past two months, weekly Church School, Wednesday Bible Study, Sunday Worship, and most recently Congregational Fellowship, have been hosted by Pastor Maurice Wright and the St. John staff via electronic media.

Through the use of the popular e-business software application, Zoom Meeting, St. John members have gained the experience of live video conferencing. Popular Social Media software applications, Facebook and Vimeo, have brought Sunday Services into our homes via mobile devices or personal computer access, spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to an even broader audience. Furthermore, St. John members, families, and friends can connect in ministry using Facebook Watch Party func-

Virtual Ministry: Reflecting on a New Normal

Brother Bobby Adkins

(Continued from page 12)

tionality, allowing each member an opportunity to reach people outside the immediate St. John family and help to spread God's Word via a group setting.

Online attendance for St. John Sunday Worship regularly exceeds 1,000 viewers, garnering an equal number of "social media likes" per service. Viewership of Wednesday Bible Study has averaged over 200 views per week, a significant increase as compared to in-person attendance. These data points clearly indicate that the Word of God is reaching more individuals than would normally be in attendance on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening at 229 Church St.

The ability to tune into one of Pastor Wright's powerful sermons, at differing times of the day, provides a needed flexibility during times of uncertainty. More so, in a 24-hour economy, access to online worship and bible training reflects the greater needs of the 2020 Christian, COVID-19 influenced or not. For added emphasis, in this writer's opinion, there is no substitute for the live ministry and worship experience. However, digital data illustrates that there is a broader segment of the Christian population that are in need of the Word of God.

A unique feature of the online digital experience is the ability for sharing of information and messaging. To better illustrate, take the use of Facebook as an example. With millions of daily users, Facebook provides a needed digital footprint to better enable electronic communication within the church body. Whether you are a popular individual with over 1,000 Facebook Friends (FBFs) or a limited user with a small circle of FBFs, the opportunity to share in ministry has never been better.

For example, a person with 500 Facebook friends can share a STJOHNAMEHSV live-link and start a Watch Party, exposing Sunday Worship or Bible Study to friends all around the country, even around the world. Task 100 members with doing the same and St. John has the potential to reach tens of thousands of believers and unbelievers. There is a saying, necessity is the mother of invention. In this case, a broader collective social media access was gained through a strong desire to commune with God.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a forcing function, allowing God's children to become even more creative in reaching out to local communities and spreading the love of Jesus. The growth in St. John's online worship has clearly been an immediate beneficiary during this dark period of coronavirus. This digital experience may very well be the proverbial "Silver Lining" that we all seek. Even as the pandemic subsides, vaccines are developed and testing more broadly administered, it may be too difficult moving forward to diminish this new ministry construct. The new and improved online church experience may be here to stay.

A huge credit goes to Pastor Wright II and the St. John Media Team for harnessing all of the technologies available to ensure the St. John family stays connected. Always, enjoy the blessings!



Live-streaming Sunday Worship services has offered members a chance to actively engage from their living rooms.



Online Bible Study has blessed regular attendees and opened avenues for members and non-members to learn the Word of God.



Facebook Live allows for an interactive worship experience.



Deaconess
Sarah (Granny) Davis Bell

Happy Birthday

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Servant Pastor, First Lady, the Reverend Joretha Wright and all the officers and members of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church are celebrating the 101st birthday of Deaconess Sarah (Granny) Davis Bell. Deaconess Bell has been a member of St. John AME Church for 87 years!

Deaconess Bell is known affectionately by all, young and old as (Granny Bell). The love she has for St. John and the members is extraordinary. She loves everyone and demonstrates that affection each and every day. She considers everyone a part of her family. Happy Birthday Granny Bell! We are so honored to be part of your extended family. She has lived this quote, "Your life is your message to the world. Make sure it's inspiring." And her life has truly inspired us all to be better people.



Distinguished Toastmaster
Mrs. Claudinette Purifoy-Fears



Distinguished Toastmaster

Mrs. Claudinette Purifoy-Fears has earned the designation of Distinguished Toastmaster from Toastmaster International. The Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award represents the highest level of educational achievement in Toastmasters.

Toastmasters is an educational program which assists in the development of oral communication and leadership skills. In order to earn this prestigious award, Mrs. Purifoy-Fears had to complete 40 speeches, complete several leadership tasks, serve as a club officer, serve as a mentor for a club as well as a Toastmaster, and serve as an Area Director. She is currently a member of The Strategic Speakers Club 6054. Mrs. Purifoy-Fears is a member of St. John AME Church. She is a member of the Trustee Board, the Senior Usher Board and a member of the Women's Missionary Society. Mrs. Purifoy-Fears is married to Mr. Anthony Fears. Congratulations Mrs. Purifoy-Fears on your distinguished accomplishment.

The Pride of St. John



Steward Eddie (Coach) Sherrod has the distinction of being the longest serving steward at St. John AME Church. Steward Sherrod has been nominated and confirmed to serve as a Steward for 35 consecutive one year terms. He served twice as vice chair or Pro Tem of the Board of Stewards. He is recognized for his initiation of women being nominated for positions on the Board of Stewards. Steward Sherrod has worked with integrity and pride under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Homer L. McCall, the Reverend Dr. Patrick D. Clayborn and the Reverend Maurice Wright, II. Steward Sherrod has been a member of St. John AME Church for over 35 years. He is married to the Honorable Martha Lynn Sherrod (retired judge). Congratulations Steward Sherrod on your longevity.

2020 National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Walk-A-Thon

Kenneth Parham

The Annual Multiple Sclerosis (MS) walk, as anyone can imagine, was challenging for all concerned at the National MS organizational level. Instead of taking the position of cancelling all activities due to COVID-19 Virus, the society decided to embrace technology during these difficult times of safe distancing. The national organization set about organizing virtual walks in its commitment to allow everyone to still connect, contribute and make a difference, in the fight to eliminate MS in our lifetime.



Sister Patricia Grier
St. John AME Church

The MS theme, "Praying For A Cure," (PAC) was adopted by the Huntsville, Alabama Team. The team was also committed to the National MS organization's use of technology (Facebook) for this year's virtual walk. This allowed family and friends to view in real time the team walking on the weekend of April 25, 2020. Team members laced up their walking shoes and continued with the annual commitment of raising contributions in support of the National MS effort. This year's team consisted of our faithful members Patricia Grier, Agnes Gilmore, Lillie Rivers, Lorraine Parham and Kenneth Parham.

The team would like to thank everyone in advance, especially the St. John AME Huntsville family and all the other supporters who contributed monetarily. Those who wish to contribute, still have an opportunity to do so by check (made payable to National MS Society) or credit card. Should the credit card option be chosen, please make the contribution via Lillie Rivers' Face Book Fundraiser page or on the team's website). All taxable donations to either local team member or on the MS PAC (Praying For A Cure) Team's webpage are due June 15, 2020. The team's webpage can be accessed at: https://secure.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?fr_id=30943&pg=team&team_id=623641. Scroll to the bottom of the MS PAC team's webpage



Sister Agnes Gilmore
St. John AME Church

and either donate to the team member or to the MS PAC Team.



Sister Lillie Rivers &
Chance, the dog
St. John AME Church

What is Multiple Sclerosis?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body.

What causes MS?

The cause of MS is still unknown. Scientists believe that a combination of environmental and genetic factors contribute to the risk of developing MS.

What ages are affected?

The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with at least two to three times more women than men being diagnosed with the disease.

Ethnic Background: Research has demonstrated that MS occurs in most ethnic groups, including African Americans, Asians and Hispanics/Latinos, but is most common amongst Caucasians of northern European ancestry. Susceptibility rates vary among these groups, with recent findings suggesting that African American women have a higher than previously reported risk of developing MS.

For more information visit...www.nationalmssociety.org



Sister Lorraine Parham
and
Brother Kenneth Parham
St. John AME Church



Soup Kitchen Ministry

FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN A PANDEMIC WORLD

Charlie Brooks

"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign Lord, "when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the Words of the Lord." Amos 8 :11 NIV

Hunger in the United States of America affects millions of Americans, including some who are middle class, or who are in households where all adults work. In 2019, over 12.5 million children and 40% of United States' undergraduate students experienced food insecurity.¹ Due to the impact of COVID-19 food crisis exists in many countries, including the United States of America. This novel coronavirus is having an unprecedented impact around the world, both in health and socioeconomic terms. Rising levels of food insecurity and lack of access to healthcare—either because of strained health systems or falling incomes—are likely to increase malnutrition, particularly among children, pregnant women and the elderly.

On the food supply side, harvests have been good and the 2020 outlook for staple crops is promising. However, movement restrictions necessary to contain the spread of the virus will disrupt the transport and processing of food and other critical goods, increasing delivery times and reducing availability of even the most basic food items.

Rising unemployment and under employment will likely reduce peoples's purchasing power severely. Who will help? The World Food Program (WFP) is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the World's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security. The World Food Program of the United States is the recognized leader in America's pursuit to end global hunger. The WFP inspires individuals, businesses and policymakers to do everything in their power to create a zero hunger world. They believe in a world without hunger where children have the proper nutrition for a healthy start in life, where families have access to food even when natural disasters strike, conflicts and pandemics. They propose that farmers grow enough food to feed themselves and participate in markets where nations have the ability to respond in times of crisis.

This organization has been on the front lines of the World's worst hunger crises, fighting hunger since 1962, providing lifesaving meals to 100 million of the World's most vulnerable people in more than 80 countries. Today's extreme levels of hunger in a pandemic world is unimaginable and imposes an extreme alert.²

Closer to home is the North Alabama Food Bank, located here in Huntsville, Alabama. It works to end hunger in this area by offering hunger relief programs that immediately feed people in need. It also addresses the root causes of hunger through local food initiatives that foster entrepreneurship and healthy food access. The Food Bank supplies 8.9 million pounds of food to homeless shelters, food pantries, soup kitchens and children's programs across eleven counties in North Alabama. Together they feed over 80,000 people at risk of hunger. They partner with churches to provide weekend meals kits to students who depend upon school meals and who may go hungry when school is closed. Note: St. John AME's Stewardess Board has been instrumental in this effort of provided meals for families in need.

When Americans work together to alleviate conditions that perpetuate chronic hunger; when food insecurity ceases to force families to not make tradeoffs between basic needs, such as housing, medical bills and food, then, communities of faith will have spread love to others in need. Food, simple, sufficient substance enables every human being to reach their full, God given potential. The simple act of providing one a meal should be the priority of every faith based organization. And when this becomes reality, then the Christian community can proclaim Glory to God.

The St. John AME Church Soup Kitchen continues to serve meals to those who come each 3rd and 4th Tuesdays monthly, even during this pandemic.

¹ Hunger in the United States. (2020, May). en Wikipedia. Retrieved from <https://en.wikipedia.org>

² World Food Program. (2020). 2020 Global Report on Food Crisis. Retrieved from <http://www.wfp.org>

Church School Lesson Overview – June 2020

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer

June 7, 2020

Lesson Title: Listen to God's Wisdom

Lesson Scripture: Proverbs 1

Print: Proverbs 1:1–4, 7, 8, 10, 20–22, 32, 33

Devotional Songs: “#364” [], #272 [], and #243 []

Key Verse: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7).

King Solomon, who reigned around 970 – 930 BC, created three thousand proverbs and is mentioned in a couple of places. The ones that the men of Hezekiah king of Judah, who reigned around 729–700 BC, copied out of the three thousand are found in chapters 25 through 29.

The author relates that Solomon was a wiseman and that his wisdom was a gift from God. The author further shares with us that the spiritual gift needs to be accepted and used regularly. Wisdom is no exception. Although wise, Solomon's life took a path that showed that he did not use the gift when it came to himself, as he married women from among pagan nations. He was thus lured to worshipping those pagan gods. God told Solomon that the kingdom would be divided after his death.

June 14, 2020

Lesson Title: Value Wisdom

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 39, Proverbs 2

Print: Proverbs 2:1–11

Devotional Songs: #377 [], #251 [], and #243 []

Key Verse: “The LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:6).

In this lesson we see parallelism that Solomon used as he makes the same point with synonyms or close synonyms.

The appeal from Father to Son in last week's lesson is continued in this lesson. The author notes that the father encourages the son on the benefits of finding wisdom fully aware that the son could find many other treasures to go after.

The commentary notes that an intense search should be used to find wisdom, as one must cry out for knowledge and raise up one's voice for understanding instead of whispering. One must also desire wisdom as much as many desire material wealth. One must go after God himself and not go after money.

June 21, 2020

Lesson Title: Receive Wisdom's Gifts

Lesson Scripture: Job 1; 42, Proverbs 8

Print: Proverbs 8:8–14, 17–21

Devotional Songs: #361 [], #258 [], and #243 []

Key Verse: “Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it” (Proverbs 8:10, 11).

The appeal to follow the path of fear of the Lord grounded wisdom continues in this week's lesson. The introductory nine chapters contain the principles and personifies wisdom three times as a woman and she is shown as making her own appeal and her own commentary.

In the ancient Near East, wisdom was valued highly. Because of their skill, wise men held ranked positions in the government of most nations and were considered exceptional in wisdom. Wise women were mentioned in the Old Testament too.

The wisdom like that within the book of Proverbs is not capped to a special class of people. It is for everyone without regard to social status to live by and practice. Four wise animals are described in Proverbs 30:24–28. They have practical skills that help them thrive and survive. The wisdom in Proverbs helps us likewise making wisdom more than just intellectual prowess. It guides a person as they navigate through life in this sinful world by instructing them how to act, speak, and respond in many situations.

June 28, 2020

Lesson Title: Feast with Wisdom

Lesson Scripture: Proverbs 9

Print: Proverbs 9:1–6, 8–10, 13–18

Devotional Songs: #77 [], #97 [], and #243 []

Key Verse: “Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding” (Proverbs 9:6).

This week's lesson is the last one to be discussed from the book of Proverbs. It comes from the last chapter of the opening section which is the first nine chapters. Personified as a woman, Wisdom, lays out her case for being chosen and followed as a way of life. Brief sayings and statements covering a wide range of topics are contained in chapters ten onward. These are brief sayings that often contrast the life of wisdom with the life of folly.

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

This lesson also points out that the essentials of life and of eternity boil down to one choice. The first psalm ends with a contrast of this choice: "The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish" (Psalm 1:6). Through Proverbs the choices are shown as wisdom and foolishness more than ten times. Wisdom leads to life and foolishness leads to death.

During the month of May
Church School will meet on ZOOM Meeting.

Topic: Church School Zoom Meeting

Time: Sundays 9am - 9:45am (Church School)
Mid-day Fellowship, Mon. - Sat. 11:30am

From a computer, tablet, or cell phone

Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09)
[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017348

From a telephone: One tap mobile

+13126266799,462687112# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,462687112# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017348

**135th St. John AME Church Anniversary
Commemorative Lapel Pin**

Be one of the first members to own this
beautifully crafted commemorative lapel pin.



\$5.00 each

Purchase from any Steward or the St. John church office.
All funds donated to the VISION 2020 Building Fund.



Juneteenth will be celebrated on Friday, June 19, 2020. It is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865 it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and the enslaved people were now free. This was two and half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official on January 1, 1863. The news of the Emancipation had little effect on the region of Texas because there were a minimal number of Union Troops in the area to enforce it. However, that changed when General Lee surrendered in April of 1865 and General Granger's regiment arrived to enforce the proclamation.

The news was met with great jubilation. The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

Juneteenth celebrations were often highlighted with festivals, food and gatherings. It was a time for bringing together family members who had been spread through out the south. Food was a central part of the gathering as was fishing, baseball and rodeos. It was the custom to have special guest speakers or the elders were called upon to recount the events of the past. Prayer services were also a major part of these celebrations.

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American legislator. Juneteenth is now celebrated across the United States and some foreign countries.

Forty-six of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth as either a state holiday or ceremonial holiday, a day of observance. The four states that do not recognize Juneteenth are Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana.

Juneteenth, Retrieved on 07 May 2020 from <https://Juneteenth.com>



Church School Book Club

May 2020

Discussion Date: May 16, 2020

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

An American Marriage, Tayari Jones, 2018.

June 2020

Discussion Date: June 20, 2020

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

The Caged Butterfly, Thomas, Marion L., 2019.

Addie Mayfield. On one autumn night in 1949, Addie falls for the irresistible red curls and vibrant green eyes of a young man from the other side of the railroad tracks. Neither knowing that the consequences of their love would have lasting effects.

Timmy Taylor. Known as one of the greatest white jazz pianists in New York, Timmy never had a reason to question his identity - until truth and betrayal strike. Will Timmy be able to push past the pain?

Nina Taylor. Beautiful and talented, Nina Taylor inherited her father's talent, but not his white skin. Certain that is how he made it big, she dives deep into a deadly obsession. Will Nina learn to love the skin she is in before it is too late?

Get immersed in this epic tale of fearless love, family secrets, and deadly obsessions that spans across four generations and three states—Georgia, Chicago, and New York. —Amazon



DR. JEFFERY COOPER
AME GENERAL SECRETARY



General Conference Update

Today, the General Conference Commission voted to reschedule the 51st. Quadrennial Conference to July 2021. The Conference will open on July 6, 2021.

For those who have already registered and reserved their hotel reservations for the General Conference, you will be contacted by email with further instructions within the next three weeks. Thank you for your patience while we work through these details.

Observer registration for the Conference remains open. The discounted registration of \$120 (with Member Card) has been extended until December 31, 2020. Register now at <https://www.ame-church.com/>.

With the move of General Conference to 2021, the 37th Biennial of the Connectional Lay Organization will also be moved and held in Orlando following the General Conference. The planning team is working to finalize new contracts with the hotels and Orange County Convention Center. Once completed, more details will be released.

Peace,
Rev. Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper
General Secretary/CIO
African Methodist Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 331028 - 1720 Scovel Street - Nashville, TN 37208
Office: 615-254-0911 - Fax: 615-254-0912
cio@ame-church.com



Announcements



St. John AME Church Worship Service Live Streaming

Until worship returns to the sanctuary, the 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms.

- Church website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com
Click on "View Livestream"
- St. John Face Book Page: [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)
- **Youtube** at St. John AME Huntsville or
- Vimeo at St. John AME

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study
Wednesday 12 noon and 6:00 p.m.

St. John Face Book Live Stream
Visit at [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using
Givelify, Paypal, CashApp or sending your offering to the church via U.S. Post.

Sending via U.S. Post Office; Complete the form below, cut along the dotted line and submit in an envelop with your check.



Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

229 Church Street NW • Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Reverend Maurice Wright, II Pastor

*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?
I will pay my vows unto the Lord. (Psalms 116:12, 14a)*

Date _____ ☐ Visitor ☐ Member
☐ Member, check box if change of address
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____ ☐ Verified

➤ Check each box that applies

☐ Tithes	Amount _____
☐ Offering	Amount _____
☐ Benevolence	Amount _____
☐ Sunday School	Amount _____
☐ Soup Kitchen	Amount _____
☐ Daniel Payne	Amount _____
☐ Building Project	Amount _____
☐ Holiday Food Box	Amount _____
☐ Other	Amount _____
TOTAL	Amount _____

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 SBHBD Church School Convention St. John - Huntsville
7 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	8 9:30 a.m. SO Plus Meeting	9	10 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	11	12	13
14 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	15	16	17	18	19	20 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club 10:00 a.m. Healing Hearts Min.
← Vacation Bible School → Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Juneteenth						
21 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Father's Day YPD Meeting	22	23 Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	24 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	25 6:00 p.m. Prison Ministry	26	27 10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting
28 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Annual Men's Day	29 Official Bd. Meeting 6:00 p.m.	30				

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(256) 534-3265

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Website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com

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The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor



*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

INDNJC

ST. JOHN

A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER

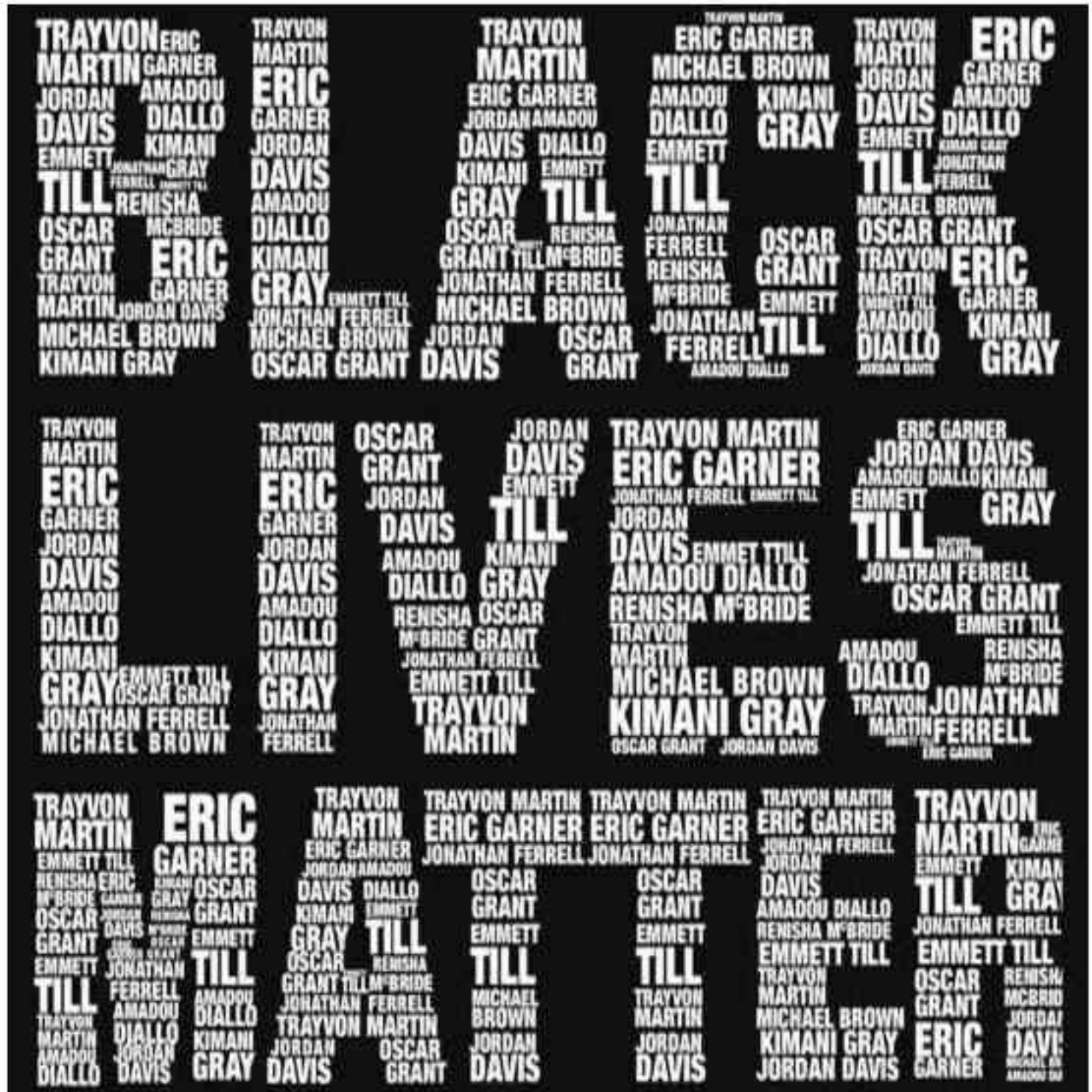


St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

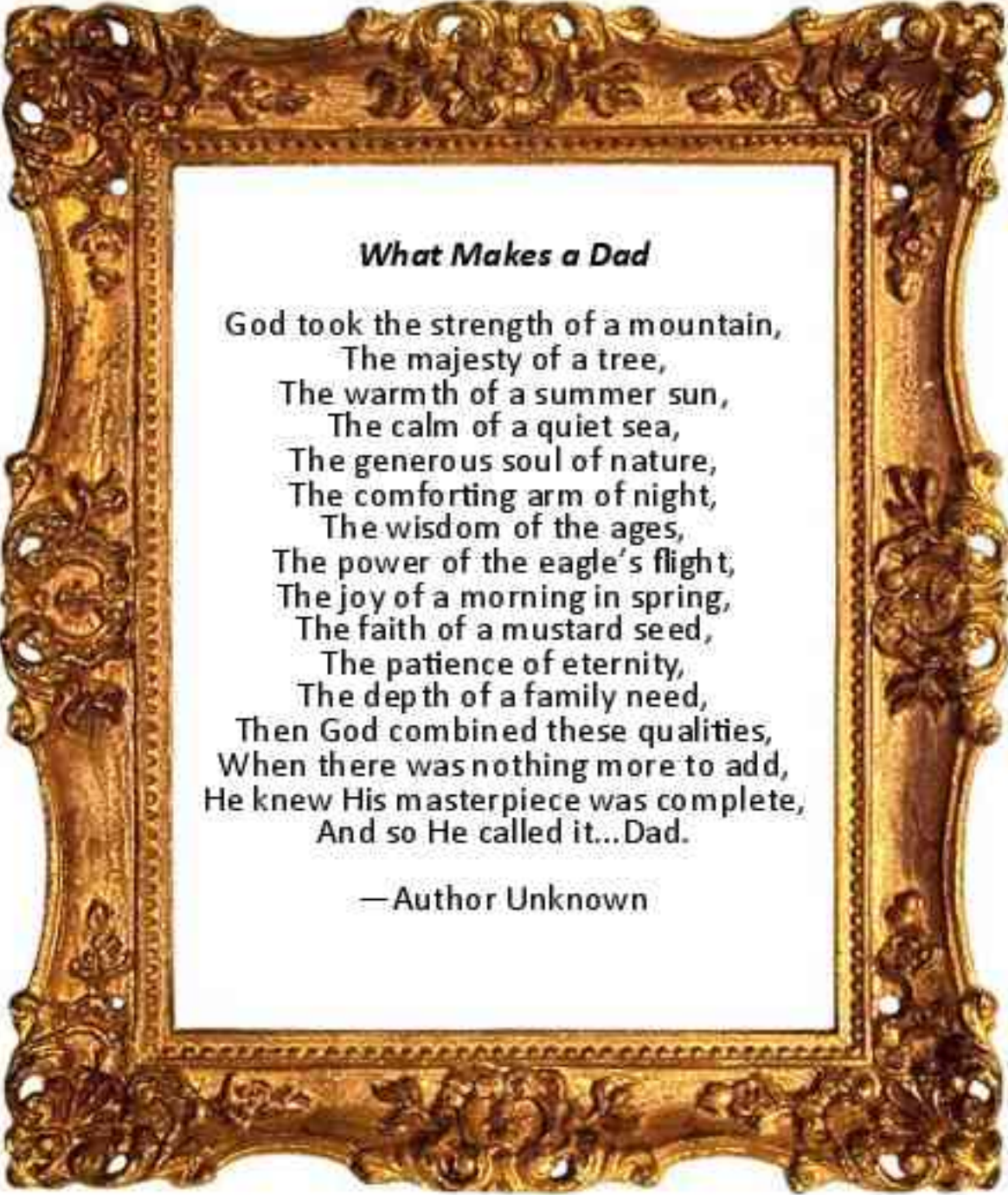
Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 25 Issue 6

June 2020



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



What Makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so He called it...Dad.

—Author Unknown

Kids' Corner

SUMMER FUN

Word Search Puzzle



W A T E R P A R K V A C A T I O N
F R I E N D S W S T Z G H N A I G
T S A Z Q P A B Q C N P N M D C S
E W O N C H I I Y I A S U R X E N
B I C Y C L E C P C R Y O Z M C F
O M P W I Z J M N E F J A A P R R
U M E I F M A T L I U I G M O E I
T I H G A C O K X C C B S N P A S
D N N J X O N P S M B K E H S M B
O G W V F I I P X D R T R A I X E
O O U E R R O C O O K O U T C N E
R A R P T L F U W S S C V Q L H G
S A S D F O L E M O N A D E E T A
B A A P E Q R S U N S H I N E M N
W O I F A I R G R O U N D P X B M
R L W N F E K N B A S E B A L L X
F B B M Y P M V T D G I S W O R V



BAREFOOT	FISHING	PICNIC
BASEBALL	FLIP FLOPS	POPSICLE
BEACH	FRIENDS	ROAD TRIP
BICYCLE	FRISBEE	SPRINKLERS
CAMPING	GAMES	SUNSHINE
COOKOUT	ICE CREAM	SWIMMING
FAIRGROUND	LEMONADE	VACATION
FIREWORKS	OUTDOORS	WATER PARK

Free printable courtesy of PrintItFree.net

St. John AME Celebrates The Class of 2020 Graduates

B. Johnson

St. John AME Church honored its Class of 2020 high school and college graduates on Saturday, May 16, 2020. The graduates were not going to be denied a serious celebration because of the pandemic. The Reverend Maurice Wright, II and the Reverend Joretha Wright and other members planned a "Drive-through" party for the graduates. The congregation was invited to "drive-through" and share congratulatory expressions with each graduate. The graduates were posted outside at individually decorated tables. Everyone was encouraged to adhere to the COVID-19 safe practices of wearing a mask, remaining in their vehicles and maintaining social distancing. Here are just a few of the photos of the event.



St. John AME Celebrates The Class of 2020 Graduates

B. Johnson



Media interviews were done by WAFF, WZDX and WHNT TV. Playback of the Graduation Celebration can be found at <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.waff.com/2020/5/17/st-john-ame-church-honor-high-school-college-graduates-with-drive-thru-parade>.

Celebrating 101 Years of Life Deaconess Sarah "Granny" Davis Bell

May 6, 2020 was a historical day for St. John AME's oldest member, Deaconess Sarah Davis Bell. It was Deaconess Bell's 101st Birthday. When she turned 100, the church celebrated with a birthday reception. On her 99th birthday, every member present on that Sunday, presented her with a long stem red rose. The Coronavirus was not going to deny St. John an opportunity to celebrate her 101st birthday. She thought the Pastor was just coming by to visit and wish her a happy birthday. When she came out on the driveway, she was greeted with a caravan of decorated cars, balloons, banners, posters and flowers wishing her a Happy 101st Birthday! The news media were there to capture the event for the evening news and for a special which was aired later in the week. Here are just a few pictures from the celebrations.



Deaconess Sarah Davis Bell's
99th Birthday Celebration
May 2018



Deaconess Sarah Davis Bell's
100th Birthday Celebration
May 2019

Happy 101st Birthday
Deaconess Sarah Granny Davis Bell!
May 2020



Pastor Wright & Granny Bell
Watching the Drive-By Parade



Decorations marking the spot.

Fly Back of the Birthday Parade can be found at
<https://www.google.com/maps/>
www.waff.com/2020/05/13/huntsville-woman-celebrates-101-birthday-with-parade/
3to utp utty pe=a mp



A caravan of birthday wishes!

Pictures courtesy of Angela Seay

Sons of Allen Support Peaceful Protest Against Police Brutality and Systemic Racism

Brother Bobby Adkins

George Floyd! Say: His Name. GEORGE FLOYD! The senseless death of the 46-year old Floyd on May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, MN, at the hands of four Minneapolis Police Department officers, pushed the nation to its knees and set off a series of nationwide protests that have since spread around the world. Protests in support of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement have erupted in every state in the US, as well as cities such as London, England; Sydney, Australia; Seoul, South Korea, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Stuttgart, Germany; and Paris, France. Floyd's death has been a watershed moment in the fight against systemic racism and police brutality. It has sparked a detailed conversation about race, race relations, and policing since the fiery protests that swept the nation during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.



St. John AME member and Alabama State House Representative Anthony Daniels (D), speaks passionately about the Power of Voting & the urgency to end Police Misconduct.

In Huntsville, protestors gathered each night at Big Spring Park since Floyd's death. The Sons of Allen, led by Pastor Maurice Wright II, participated in a peaceful protest on June 3, 2020, providing support to the rally host, the North Alabama Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Attendance by several estimates, exceeded 2,000 persons at the June 3rd protest, which lasted from 5:00 – 6:15 pm. Though the scheduled protest was peaceful and without incident, tempers flared as the city-imposed 8:00 pm curfew went into effect. Those minor disturbances did little to taint the success of the event or to reduce the enthusiasm and passion of the protestors.

Prior to the protest, the Sons of Allen hosted a "Real Talk from the Man Cave" virtual session via Zoom Meeting on June 2nd, which lasted well-over 2 hours. During the meeting, 25 ministry members spoke emotionally regarding the challenges that African American men face in 2020 society. Whether working in Corporate America, or within our own communities, it was acknowledged that no economic status or position eliminates a black man in America from the challenges and anxieties resulting from systemic racism.

Personal and heart-felt testimonies were shared by those on the Zoom Call. The weight of the Floyd death, coming on the heels of the fatal shooting of 26-year old Breonna Taylor on March 13, 2020 by members of the Louisville (KY) police department; and the killing of 25-year old Ahmaud Arbery, at the hands of white vigilantes near Brunswick, GA on February 23rd, provided another element of emotion and anger. Just coming to grips with the current state of race in America has been difficult. At the onset of the meeting, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 was read, with a focus on "every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" in verse 5. This served as a reminder that in our anger, Jesus is there to bear our burdens and to give us Godly wisdom.



Protestors representing many races, creeds, and colors came out to protest the killing of George Floyd and against police brutality on June 3, 2020 in Huntsville, AL.

Many like this writer, may be asking themselves, "Why now?" "Why Huntsville?" The United States has a long and infamous history of systemic racism, blatant discrimination, income inequality, and a rigged criminal justice system that directly and overtly impacts the African American community. Floyd's death appears to have been the match that lit a series of social-economic powder kegs, each channeled through the senseless death of an African American citizen of this country at the hands of law enforcement or (white nationalist). His death has exposed for the world to see underlying and more systemic issues

Peaceful Protest Against Police Brutality and Systemic Racism

(Continued from page 7)

affecting Americans of limited means.

Areas of inequality, not just in how the nation polices its citizens, but in how Federal and State Governments respond to their own citizens, is on full display. Each day we are bombarded with videos of unnecessary use of force from law enforcement against peaceful protestors.

A complete lack of discipline from members of law enforcement is on display, which only angers viewers and heightens animosity in the black community towards the police. Finally, a lack of compassion and a nonchalance in the face of the



Pastor Maurice Wright (left), accompanied by Brother Bobby Adkins, President of the St. John AME Sons of Allen, showed up to protest Police Brutality and Systemic Racism.

deadly COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the angst and anxiety that is raging in this country. Also, a general lack of awareness (or care) from the executive leadership, amidst the great economic meltdown of 2020, has brought together a new rainbow coalition of protesters.

The 2020 CARES ACT has also contributed in subtle ways, with yet another massive shift of wealth to the "Haves," and at the expense of the "Have-nots." Large corporations received a disproportionate amount of the stimulus, using payments to prop up balance sheets, while strategizing to lay off workers. Small-business owners have been left wanting for economic equality, while large corporations have collected the lion's share of stimulus payments. All the while, the stock market, which benefits the "Haves" is within striking distance of pre-COVID highs, underscoring the disconnect between mainstream America and Wall Street.

Floyd's death has served to galvanize the young and old around the BLM movement and opened the door for White Americans of conscious to join in masses, seeing more clearly than ever as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated in his *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, "Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere."

The sight of majority white protestors, in politically conservative states such as Kansas, Nebraska, and Utah, indicate a new demographic being introduced to the very real legacy of Black Oppression. In a June 6, 2020 *Texas Monthly* article titled "Black Lives Matter Comes to Vidor – Yes, Vidor," white Americans, in a Texas town described as the most racist in the state, joined local BLM leaders for a short rally and march. This intersection of race and region signal a shift from this being a moment, and instead it manifests itself into a significant movement.

White protestors, pepper-sprayed and attacked by paramilitary-outfitted police, now have first-hand experience and a sizable dose of empathy for what Black-Americans have dealt with for over 400 years in this country. The cavalier attitude of Floyd's arresting officer, as he placed his knee into Floyd's neck (and his hands in his pocket), choking him of air, opened the nation's eyes



A local protestor holds up a sign reading "STOP KILLING US" at the June 3, 2020 protest rally in Huntsville.

(Continued on page 9)

Peaceful Protest Against Police Brutality and Systemic Racism

wide to the attitude of some uniformed officers towards Black-Americans. George Floyd's life was clearly not of worth to the Minneapolis Police Department, as he was killed over what is being alleged as passing a phony \$20 bill. That Floyd was already handcuffed and being held down by three additional police officers only adds to the rage. Floyd was a threat to the officers because of the color of his skin, not because of any violation of the law.

Again, this writer asks, "why now?" 2020 has delivered a tremendous amount of grief to families around the United States and around the world. It has been a series of body blows, each weakening the core of the nation. A collection of struggle, hardship, shock, and heartbreak. For many, inside and outside the sports world, the death of NBA legend Kobe Bryant, in late January, would have automatically qualified 2020 as a year to forget. The sudden nature of his passing triggered an introspective period, with plenty of soul searching amongst his fans and foes alike. His death offered the world a painful reminder of how swift life can end, as well as a new awareness of what people as a society may be missing. Be it quality time with family or reflecting on unfulfilled promise or dreams, Bryant's death was a wakeup call to many, especially within the African American community.



Protestors raise fist in the air in a show of solidarity for the

As many around the world were grieving Bryant's death, the silent killer, COVID-19, commonly referred to as Coronavirus, was slowly spreading and making its presence felt, first in large metropolitan areas, and then within every community, in every state. Starting in Asia, and spreading into the United States, Americans were forced to take preventive measures, including travel bans, the shuttering of businesses and schools, implementing stay at home measures and practicing social distancing. These measures increased the level of anxiety in many households, adding another dimension of worry and economic decay to communities already struggling to get by.

As the economy slowed, the number of unemployed began to grow, with communities of color being affected most. According to a June 5, 2020 report from the Washington Post, 40% of Black-owned businesses have closed due to COVID-19. People of color are overrepresented based on population in the areas of retail services, health care, ground transportation and hospitality. As such, the perils of being considered "essential workers" or working in a segment of the economy with low wages and limited employment benefits has exacerbated the economic and health problem. Without access to quality



Young African American sisters are taking their place on the frontlines in the fight to end racism and injustice.

health care and being in the most vulnerable segment of the population to COVID-19, black and brown people were stuck in a "Darned if you do, darned if you don't" dilemma, having to choose between work or safety. The public has learned first-hand who is bearing the brunt of COVID-19, as well as which segment of the population ensured there was not a total collapse of the economy. Black Americans once again rose to the occasion and acted as the single thread that has held many areas of the economy together, at great personal expense.

In a sense, the trajectories of Bryant's death, COVID-19, record unemployment, police brutality, systemic racism, and criminal justice reform all intersected on the corner of E 38th St. and Chicago Ave. on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis. The George Floyd murder has placed a spotlight on a decade's worth of meaningless killings of young black men and women; the unfulfilled promise of some of the brightest and most gifted. Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Mi-

Peaceful Protest Against Police Brutality and Systemic Racism

(Continued from page 9)

Michael Floyd, and Sandra Bland are but a few of the Black-Americans whose lives have been snuffed out at the hands of law enforcement. So many others, without a hint of criminal misconduct, have been effectively targeted by local law enforcement, not due to the content of their character, but because of the color of their skin. As the Pastor of St. John stated in a June 1st interview on NBC affiliate, WAFF 48 Huntsville, "We're angry. We're angry about this. We're tired of watching our sons being gunned down."

When NFL star Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the 2016 season, he was ostracized, with NFL owners joining together to force him from the league. His patriotism was questioned by influential persons from the NFL to the White House. Kaepernick was joined in protest by other NFL players, as well as players in other professional sports. These silent protests set off a firestorm across America, with conservative media seeking to reframe the protest as "anti-American", thus shifting the narrative away from the intent of the protest, to highlight police brutality upon people of color.



Young activist from white and Hispanic communities have strengthened the Black Lives Matter movement.

Fast forward four years, and in light of recent tragedies, NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell, who oversaw the secretive, yet tactical removal of Kaepernick from the league four years ago, has now admitted the league was wrong in failing to acknowledge the history of racism and police bias in this country. In a public statement, since rebuked by the White House, Goodell states that the NFL is now ready to partner with the African American community in support of police reform. For this writer, there is irony in Kaepernick being kicked out of the league for taking a knee, while George Floyd was murdered in the very same way. The irony illustrates the level of disconnect that many white Americans have for the plight of the African American in this nation.

These protests seem different. A younger, more energetic and diverse group of patriots have assumed their positions as leaders and architects of the movement. A generation raised on suburban soccer fields and fully integrated athletic teams have found their voices. A generation of young, white Americans raised on Hip-Hop, and enlightened by the best of African American excellence in business, sports, and entertainment, have joined the fray, ignoring parents, who have their own history of silence on these issues.

Young Hispanic-Americans, facing a federal administration that focuses on cracking down on immigration and threatening family members, have also stepped up, understanding that Black-Americans have paved the way for greater Civil Rights, and perhaps seeing this as a chance to repay the African-American community for the historic sacrifices that have benefited other minority communities.

Lastly, as this movement continues to mature, St. John AME will remain a very present help for this Huntsville community in this time of trouble. Perhaps, this moment, has opened the eyes of enough persons across a most diverse set of the population to force change, not just in mindset, but also at the ballot box. For this movement to be successful, Americans of all shades should start now verifying eligibility to vote, consider contributing to the BLM movement, begin supporting other Criminal Justice Reform coalitions, such as Faith in Action – Alabama (Huntsville Chapter) or the Equal Justice Initiative, or simply start a conversation with a neighbor on race relations. As believers, we know that they can do all things through Christ who provides strength.

With God as our refuge, the Sons of Allen will continue to look to the hills from which cometh our help, which indeed comes from the Lord. BLACK LIVES MATTER! Shalom!



I Can't Breathe!

The exclaim, "I Can't Breathe" has been heard around the world for the last month since the brutal, televised killing of Mr. George Floyd. It has echoed in every city, state, county, village and hamlet, large and small. It has resonated throughout the nation and internationally as a call for justice, fairness and equality denied.

After a tumultuous week of protest in Huntsville, Alabama, St. John stood firmly in one accord with the world, as members dressed in "I Can't Breathe, Again" shirts.

As the country looked for answers, Pastor Wright on Sunday, June 7, 2020 provided a solution in his message, "A Remedy for What's Going On." His sermon gave four antidotes for the "people called by His name" should adhere

to. He reaffirmed that they should 1. pursue peace, 2. do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God, 3. get back to God and 4. pray, seek His face and turn from their wicked ways.

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II was also interviewed by a local media journalist, Payton Walker, WAFF News, after the protest held in Huntsville. He was asked how he felt about the protest. His response was, "We're angry about this. We're tired of watching our sons being gunned down. We're tired of being taken for granted. My only concern is when it turns to the looting and when it turns to this negative behavior, that actually takes away from what the message really is. The message is about justice." Pastor Wright continued by saying, "My hope is we will turn out to vote like we turned out to protest. If people turn out to vote the way they turned out to protest, we can begin to turn this things around."

A replay of the full interview can be viewed by going to:

<https://www.waff.com/2020/06/01/Huntsville-pastor-reacts-killing-george-floyd/>

Honoring Our Elders

Dr. Arthur Walker and Mrs. Rosa Rice Walker were honored during the 12th Annual Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration. The Rosetta James Foundation is a non-profit organization which gives back annually to the community by providing scholarships to deserving high school and college students.

Dr. Walker was honored for his many years as an exceptional educator. Dr. Walker was the former president of the 6,000-student Motlow State Community College in Moore County, Tennessee.

Mrs. Rosa Rice Walker an esteemed educator in her own right was recognized for her 35 years of teaching experience with Huntsville City Schools. Her educational career has been broad and diverse, encompassing kindergarten through high school.



Dr. Arthur Walker and
Mrs. Rosa Rice Walker

We salute the Walkers and are proud of their many successes and accomplishments.



Soup Kitchen Ministry

Charlie Brooks

WE PROPOSE LOVE!

"IS IT NOT TO SHARE OUR BREAD WITH THE HUNGRY
and bring the homeless poor into your house,
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
You shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'
If you take away the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking
wickedness,
if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.
And the Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail."

-ISAIAH 58-7-11 (ESV)

Digitizing St. John AME Church Records and Documents

July 24th and July 31st

Save the Dates

Friday, July 24th and Friday, July 31st

"Sheltering in Place" for two months gave everyone a chance to tackle some of those projects which had been placed on the "back burner." One of those daunting tasks was probably de-cluttering office space, the garage or that awful hall closet. When the task was finally scheduled and unavoidable, a treasure trove of historical documents and pictures, along with the junk was more than likely uncovered.

So, what to do with the historical documents and keep-sakes? Here's a solution. The History Makers Ministry has partnered with the Huntsville-Madison County Library's project to digitize, and preserve the history of not only the families in Madison County, but also the churches of Madison County.

These are the items which can be digitized;

- + All items pertaining to St. John AME Church (i.e. old programs, anniversary programs, founder's day programs, holiday programs, minutes from different church organizations.)
- + Letters, photographs, records, artifacts
- + All items must be original (no photocopies or reproductions) and owned by the person bringing them for digitization.

Items will be scanned and returned to the owners. A link to the digital archive for St. John will be made available for viewing the digitized items. The history of the church will be archived for retrieval by future generations. Retrieving 135 years of history will be as easy as accessing the link, pointing and clicking.

A team of library archivists will be coming to St. John to scan items in the S. S. Hereford Fellowship Hall on Friday, July 24th and Friday, July 31st.

To continue good CDC Safe Practices of social distancing and sanitizing, The History Makers Ministry will be scheduling appointments on Friday, July 24th and Friday, July 31st for any members who would like to get all their information digitized.

Contact Mrs. Abbiegail Hugine, (256-372-5230) History Makers Ministry, chairperson for appointments.

Church School Lesson Overview – July 2020

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer

July 5, 2020

Lesson Title: Wisdom's Vindication

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 11:1-9

Print: Matthew 11:7-19

Devotional Songs: #215 [], #272 [], and #243 []

Key Verse: The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of the tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds" (Matthew 11:19).

In this lesson the author of Matthew 11 is sharing that for years the people had heard of a coming savior. This savior would be the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Depending on whom the current king was, there may have been more details added as to the type of savior that was coming. The people may have thought of a Moses figure who would come and bring plagues or a David figure who would come like a warrior, would come and destroy the place. The author points out that this was not the case with John the Baptist or with Jesus, as they did not match the people's expectations.

July 12, 2020

Lesson Title: The Boy Jesus

Lesson Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; Luke 2:39-52

Print: Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7b; Luke 2:39-52

Devotional Songs: #381 []; #251 []; and #243 []

Key Verse: "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him" (Luke 2:40).

In this week's lesson it is seen that at a young age Jesus was able to do what only trained and prepared scholars were allowed to do. Many have marveled at how Jesus was able to hang out with the elders and participate in their discussion. The teachers stood in awe; however, everyone was not okay with Jesus' actions.

The author notes that Jesus is greater than everyone else because He has the nature and authority of God himself. Via Jesus, God entered the world to save His people.

July 19, 2020

Lesson Title: The Wisdom of Jesus

Lesson Scripture: Mark 6:1-6; 7:1-23

Print: Mark 6:1-6

Devotional Songs: #221 []; #258 []; and #243 []

Key Verse: "On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that

has been given to him? ...'" (Mark 6:2-3).

In this week's lesson we see that John the Baptist had already done the legwork and had gotten the people ready for Jesus's arrival. Jesus let John baptize Him and a dove came down, and God anointed Jesus as His son by speaking from the clouds, letting everyone know He was very pleased.

Jesus' anointing, accomplishments, and miracles were met with mockery and with reproach. The people saw Him as the carpenter's son and could not see Him beyond that.

July 26, 2020

Lesson Title: Wisdom: The Way, Truth, and Life

Lesson Scripture: Proverbs 3:17, 8-32, 36; John 14:1-14

Print: Proverbs 14:1-14

Devotional Songs: #77 []; #97 []; and #243 []

Key Verse: "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

In this week's lesson the disciples had just found out that Jesus was leaving. He saw their painful expressions and tried to put them at ease by telling them where He was going. He told them He was going with His father and would make a place for them. He would then come back when time was right and they would know the way to Him. Because this was not a satisfying answer, they started asking more questions like "how are we supposed to know the way?"

30 Days of Prayer

We're Praying for Change

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray...2 Chronicles 7:14

Online Prayer Revival
Beginning Sunday, June 7, 2020 and ending
Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Every night at 8:30 p.m.
Join the Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Servant Pastor
St. John AME Church
on his Face Book page
for an up-lifting, spirit-filled time of prayer and praise.

During the months of June and July
Church School will meet on ZOOM Meeting.

Topic: Church School Zoom Meeting

Time: Sundays 9am - 9:45am (Church School)
Mid-day Fellowship, Mon. - Sat. 11:30am

From a computer, tablet, or cell phone

Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MTZkdzZkR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1jR3NXZz09)
[pwd=MTZkdzZkR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1jR3NXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MTZkdzZkR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1jR3NXZz09)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017348

From a telephone: One tap mobile

+13126266799,462687112# US (Chicago)
+19292056099,462687112# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017348

**135th St. John AME Church Anniversary
Commemorative Lapel Pin**

Be one of the first members to receive this
beautifully crafted commemorative lapel pin.



\$5.00 each

Purchase from any Steward or the St. John church office.

All funds donated to the VISION 2020 Building Fund.



**Church School
Book Club**

June 2020

Discussion Date: June 20, 2020

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

The Caged Butterfly, Thomas, Marion L., 2019

July 2020

Discussion Date: July 18, 2020

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Where the Crawdads Sing, Delia Owens, 2018.

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

Where the Crawdads Sing is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps. — Amazon



Tribute to Mrs. Princetta Huguley Mackey

Mrs. Princetta Mackey
April 5, 1940 - May 3, 2020



Mother Princetta Mackey transitioned this life on Sunday, May 3, 2020, minutes before the first Sunday's church service and Communion service which she loved to take part in began.

Mother Mackey joined St. John AME Church after moving to Huntsville to be with her daughter Sarah and son-in-law Ricky McGraw. She

enjoyed coming to church when her health would allow.

She was born as one of a set of fraternal twins to the late Mr. Amos Huguley and Mrs. Vannie Huguley. She attended historic New Hope School in Chambers County, Alabama one of the historic Rosenwald Schools. On June 17, 1950 she married Mr. Paul William Mackey. To this union was born six children.

Mrs. Mackey was dedicated to Christian service at her home church. She attended services regularly, was a Sunday School teacher and sang in the choir. She sang solos as part of a singing troupe named, "The Old Ship of Zion" in LaFayette, Alabama. She served as a Deaconess and was a member of the Missionary Society at the Friendship Baptist Church No. 2 and at White Hall Missionary Baptist Church in LaFayette.

Words of comfort for the family were offered by the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Servant Pastor of St. John AME Church.

As a faithful servant of the Lord, she leaves her love to her St. John AME church family, and her friends and former church families at White Hall Missionary Baptist Church and Friendship Baptist Church No. 2, both in LaFayette, Alabama.

Mother Mackey was laid to rest in the Handy Cemetery in LaFayette, Alabama.

Note: Information taken from the obituary for Mrs. Princetta Mackey.

Tribute to Mrs. Idell Montgomery Merrell

Mrs. Idell Merrell, age 96, of Huntsville, Alabama passed away on 6 June 2020.

Idell was born to Chalmus and Gertrude Montgomery on 22 December 1923 in Guntersville, Alabama. After the death of her father when Idell was very young, she was raised by her beloved maternal grandparents: Jerry and Martha (Molly) Reed.

Idell eloped at the age of 17 marrying Peter Merrell, to whom she remained married until his death in 1979. They moved to Huntsville after WWII and raised eight children: Nedra Ballard, Martha Patton, Sarah Johnson, Ernestine Langford, Cynthia Tarver, Kenneth Merrell, Thomas Merrell and Jeffery Merrell. She was grandma to sixteen grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren and numerous great great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Merrell was a faithful member of St. John AME Church for over 70 years. While attending St. John, she was led to join the Senior Choir. She loved singing and enjoyed praising the Lord through music. The entire congregation was so excited when she and Brother Earl Griffiths formed a duo to sing, what would become her song of praise, "God, Never Fails." It also became one of the Reverend Dr. Homer McCall's favorites as well. Deaconess Charlsie Brooks, stated, "She sang her faith." Steward Abbiegail Hugine remarked, "Her conversations were so rich and I always left the visits feeling so renewed." At 96 her mind was still sharp and she remembered details from her past. She was a kind, gentle and spirit-filled woman of God. She will be missed by the St. John congregation.

She is preceded in death by her parents, nine siblings, husband, daughters: Ernestine, Sarah and Cynthia; and grandson, Kenneth Merrell, II.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date to be announced.



Announcements



St. John AME Church Worship Service Live Streaming

Until worship returns to the sanctuary, the 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms.

- Church website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com
Click on "View Livestream"
- St. John Face Book Page: [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)
- **Youtube** at St. John AME Huntsville or
- Vimeo at St. John AME

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study
Wednesday 12 noon and 6:00 p.m.

St. John Face Book Live Stream
Visit at [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using
Givelify, Paypal, CashApp@STJOHNHSV or sending your offering to the church via U.S. Post.

Sending via U.S. Post Office; Complete the form below, cut along the dotted line and submit in an envelop with your check.



Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church 229 Church Street NW • Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Reverend Maurice Wright, II Pastor

*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?
I will pay my vows unto the Lord. (Psalms 116:12, 14a)*

Date _____ ☐ Visitor ☐ Member
☐ Member, check box if change of address
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____ ☐ Verified

➤ Check each box that applies

	Amount
☐ Tithes	_____
☐ Offering	_____
☐ Benevolence	_____
☐ Sunday School	_____
☐ Soup Kitchen	_____
☐ Daniel Payne	_____
☐ Building Project	_____
☐ Holiday Food Box	_____
☐ Other	_____
TOTAL	_____

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	2	3	4 
5 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	6	7	8 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	9	10 AMEN Staff Meeting TBA	11 10:00 a.m.-12 p.m. CPR Ministry Searching Your Genealogy
12 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	13	14	15 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	16	17	18 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club 10:00 a.m. Healing Hearts Min.
19 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	20	21 Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	22 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	23 6:00 p.m. Prison Ministry	24	25 10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting
26 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	27 Official Bd. Meeting 6:00 p.m.	28 Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	29 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	30	31	

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(256) 534-3265

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Website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com

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The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor



*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

INDNJC

ST. JOHN

A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 25 Issue 7

July 2020

40-Day Prayer Revival Praying for Change

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

40-Day Prayer Revival

B. Johnson

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:6 (NIV)

It has been overheard by many that some have said, "I don't pray in public. I don't know what to say. I can't pray like those old time prayer warriors. I can't call on the Holy Spirit like they could. I pray at home or in silence, I just get too nervous to pray in public." But prayer is the way Christians communicate with God, the Heavenly Father. It is a conversation with God. God is not looking to hear lofty, multi-syllabic words, and poetic phrases from His children. He is looking to have an ongoing relationship through prayer with them. Prayer is like a conversation with one's earthly father. Would a son or daughter go days even months or years without speaking to or communicating with their father? Hopefully not. The same is true of God. He wants to hear from His children daily.



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate of the
Ninth Episcopal District

The 30-Day Prayer Revival was initiated by Pastor Wright. It began on Sunday, June 7, 2020 and was to culminate on Tuesday, July 7, 2020. However, the spirit led Pastor Wright to continue the prayer revival for another 10 days; making it a 40-Day Prayer Revival. The purpose was to engage the congregation in a conversation on prayer and its effectiveness for believers. The goal was to utilize the ZOOM platform in engaging the participants in a 15 minute meditation and then a 15 minute prayer. Pastor Wright led the meditations each night on the power of an effective prayer life and then followed with prayer. The first week, Pastor Wright lead the prayer. The second week prayer was led by the Stewards of the church. Beginning the third week until the 40th night, prayer was led by an invited guest. The meditations on prayer were enlightening and the prayers by the invited participants were powerful.



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Senior Bishop A. J. Richardson, 11th Episcopal District

Seven ideas were highlighted during the 40-day revival.

The first was having a relationship with God. Prayer was explained as a two-way communication with God. One speaks to God and God listens. Then God speaks and the believer should listen. God hears our prayers. The question was answered, "Why do believers pray?" Believers pray to express thanks to God, to make their requests known, and to accept God's will for their lives. God is concerned with what believers have to say, rather than how it is said. Prayers should take on a more meaningful posture. Believers should pray with a clear understanding of



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Ninth District Episcopal Supervisor,
the Reverend Sherita Moon Seawright

who they are talking to. The question also arose as to how many times one should pray; easily answered through, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

(Continued on page 3)

40-Day Prayer Revival

B. Johnson

The second idea focused on The ACTS Prayer Model. When believers pray they should [A] pray with adoration or praise and worship of God. Praise is given to God because He is worthy of all praise. Praise is given to show obedience to God. This is supported by the scripture, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" Psalm 150:6 (NIV). The [C] reminds believers that they should confess their sins and repent. Turn away from sin and turn to Him. Believers need to be in good relationship with God. Then [T] represents prayers of thanksgiving.

Believers should spend time in thanking God for who God is, giving thanks for everything in times of trials and times of contentment. And then [S] supplication. Prayers of supplication are prayers asking God for something from a place of humility. Humble people pray with the right motive. In summary The ACTS Prayer Model instills in believers, to pray with adoration, confess sins and repent, be always thankful and humbly make their requests known to God.



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
The Reverend Don Darius Butler, Senior Pastor
First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama

The third premise focused on the Five Lessons from Jesus on Prayer. They were:

1. Prayer is necessary...Never be too busy to pray.
2. Prayer demands solitude...Jesus went off alone to pray.
3. Prayer will often be strenuous... He (Jesus) prayed all night long.
4. Prayer has a purpose.. Jesus fulfilled His purpose.
5. Prayer is effective...But I (Jesus) have prayed for you so that your faith will not fail.



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II &
Evangelist Jacquelyn Melton



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II &
The Reverend Dr. Cecelia Bryant

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16. All believers would like to believe that they are righteous first of all and their prayers are heard and answered. This was the fourth focus of the prayer revival, effectual prayers. Effectual prayers require four things: (1) Believers must learn to pray within God's will. Not my will but thy will be done. The will of the Father is best because God knows what is best for everyone. (2) Humility and meekness are both characteristics needed to serve with God. To be humble one must have the faith that God will not lead them wrong. Effectual fervent prayers require one to humble oneself under the mighty arm of God. When heads are bowed, Christians are in a posture of humbleness, submission before the throne of grace and mercy. Which leads to the right (3) attitude of a righteous person. The right attitude reminds believers that God's timing is not man's timing. God knows the perfect time to answer prayers. There is a season for everything, including God answering prayers. Believers demonstrating the right attitude know that they must wait patiently on the Lord. He will answer prayers in one of three ways, Yes, No, or Not yet. Let

God choose the time to answer prayers. The believer's job is to trust in Him completely. Effective fervent prayers of the righteous then must demonstrate (1) acknowledgement of God's will, (2) humility, (3) trusting God's timing and (4) possessing a positive attitude towards God, in how He chooses to answer prayers.

40-Day Prayer Revival

B. Johnson

(Continued from page 3)

Pastor Wright had expounded on what prayer was; the next focus was on what prayer was not. He listed several things, prayer is not. They were:

1. Prayer is not a religious ritual. Prayer should be a life-style.
2. Prayer is not trying to make or convince God to do what we want Him to do. Rather it is a conversation whereas the believer trusts His judgement enough to live within His will.
3. Prayer is not a substitute for action for prayer without action is dead.
4. Prayer is not informing God of things He already knows. God is sovereign, He knows everything.
5. Prayer is not a time to ask God to avenge an assault. Remembering to allow God to be God all by Himself. He will take care of it. God does not need our help.
6. Prayer is not a time to compare one's talk with God with someone else's talk. Prayer should not be complicated.

Reading the Word is just as important to a prayer life as praying itself. It is through the prayers of Paul that believers learn how to pray and what to pray for. Pastor Wright further explained Paul's position on prayer. He listed these examples;

1. Paul taught that prayers should not be selfish—Believers should pray for each other.
2. Paul also prayed specifically for wisdom and knowledge for others as the body of Christ should do.
3. Believers should pray as Paul did for peace and unity.
4. The faithful should pray to be filled with the spiritual power of God.
5. Paul prayed that believers would have a spirit of praise and thankfulness in their mouth.

Presiding Elder Bruce Hunter inspired the listeners by introducing the concept of the "Sounds of Prayers." He stated that when words are not able to be uttered, just a groan, moan or deep sigh is enough to get the attention of the Holy Spirit to intercede for believers.

The Reverend Dr. Ritney A. Castine reminded everyone that they have been the beneficiaries of prayers prayed by the ancestors.

And lastly, the Right Reverend, Retired Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry closed the 40-Day Revival by stating emphatically that "Prayer Still Works."



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Pastor Jessica Durr, Metropolitan AME Church, Mobile, AL



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
The Reverend Myron D. Hill, Associate Director MCAM



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, 10th Episcopal District



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Presiding Elder Bruce Hunter, Ninth Episcopal District

(Continued on page 5)

40-Day Prayer Revival

B. Johnson

A special moment of prayer followed each night's meditation. Pastor Wright prayed fervently the first week of the revival. The Stewards of St. John prayed intercessory prayers the second week. The following weeks the moment of prayer was delivered by local church leaders, episcopal district leaders, spiritual leaders across the connection, and the country. Each one came in their own way to pray for change.



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
The Right Reverend, Bishop Carolyn Tyler Gaudry (Ret)

The nightly revival attendance was amazing. The ZOOM viewership for each of the forty nights ranged from 120 to 300 participants. The viewership the night Reverend Dr. Cecelia Bryant was the prayer leader topped three thousand views! Pastor Wright can truly say, St. John is still reaching the masses outside the confines of the traditional church.

The 40-Day Revival has been recorded on ZOOM. The nightly sessions may be retrieved and viewed on Facebook. Visit the Reverend Maurice Wright, II's Facebook page for replays.



Morning Glories

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

Not only were the members and friends of St. John engaged in nightly prayer for 40 nights, but the congregation was also called to morning prayer each Monday morning by the First Lady of St. John, the Reverend Joretha Wright. For that moment in time, prayers were prayed for parents, for the family, the extended family and for the children.



Steward Marcus Hill, the Reverend Maurice Wright, II
The Reverend Dennis DeLoach

"I Made It Out Alright!"

The St. John family welcomed home a son of the church on Sunday, July 5, 2020. It was a pleasure seeing one who had come to St. John as a college student, worked in the church, and received his calling here. The Reverend Dennis DeLoach received his calling under the late, Reverend Dr. Homer L. McCall. He continued to develop and mature in the faith under the Reverend Dr. Patrick D. Clayborn. By the time the Reverend Wright arrived, he had received his assignment to a small church in Fackler, Alabama. The Reverend DeLoach chose as his sermon topic, "I Made It Out Alright" using Daniel 3:26 as the scripture.

The Reverend Dennis DeLoach serves as an Itinerant Deacon at Allen Chapel AME Church in Washington, D.C. where the Reverend Dr. Michael E. Bell, Sr. is the pastor.



From the Pastor's Desk

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church



July 2020

St. John Family and Friends,

Forty days ago, I was led to call a "Prayer Revival". There were so many situations that we as a nation were facing at that moment. We were amid a global medical pandemic, a social pandemic and what I have called a strange season. As a race, we have been traumatized by the murder of our sons and daughters. Once again, we have witnessed an unfair justice system that seeks to destroy our future. The blood of our people continues to run like rain water draining into a sewer of hate, hurt, destruction, and injustice.

As a black man living in these perilous times, my spirit was vexed. I am upset at the treatment of our seniors, I am sickened by blatant disrespect of our entire village. In addition to the social concerns I am fearful of an invisible disease that is destroying our land.

In a conversation with God, I asked, "What do we do to restore our hope? What do we do to gain strength for our weary souls? How do we get healing?" God led me to His word. The Bible says in 2nd Chronicles 7:14, "If my people which are called by my name would humble themselves and pray..." God reminded me that our secret weapon is, prayer.

Over the past 40 days God has poured out His spirit upon us. The number 40 has major spiritual significance. There were 40 days of rain during the time of Noah. Moses spent 40 days on Mt. Sinai and then received the commandments. Jesus spent 40 days in consecration as He prayed and fasted. We have gone before the Lord as a collective body, and have been blessed over these 40 days.

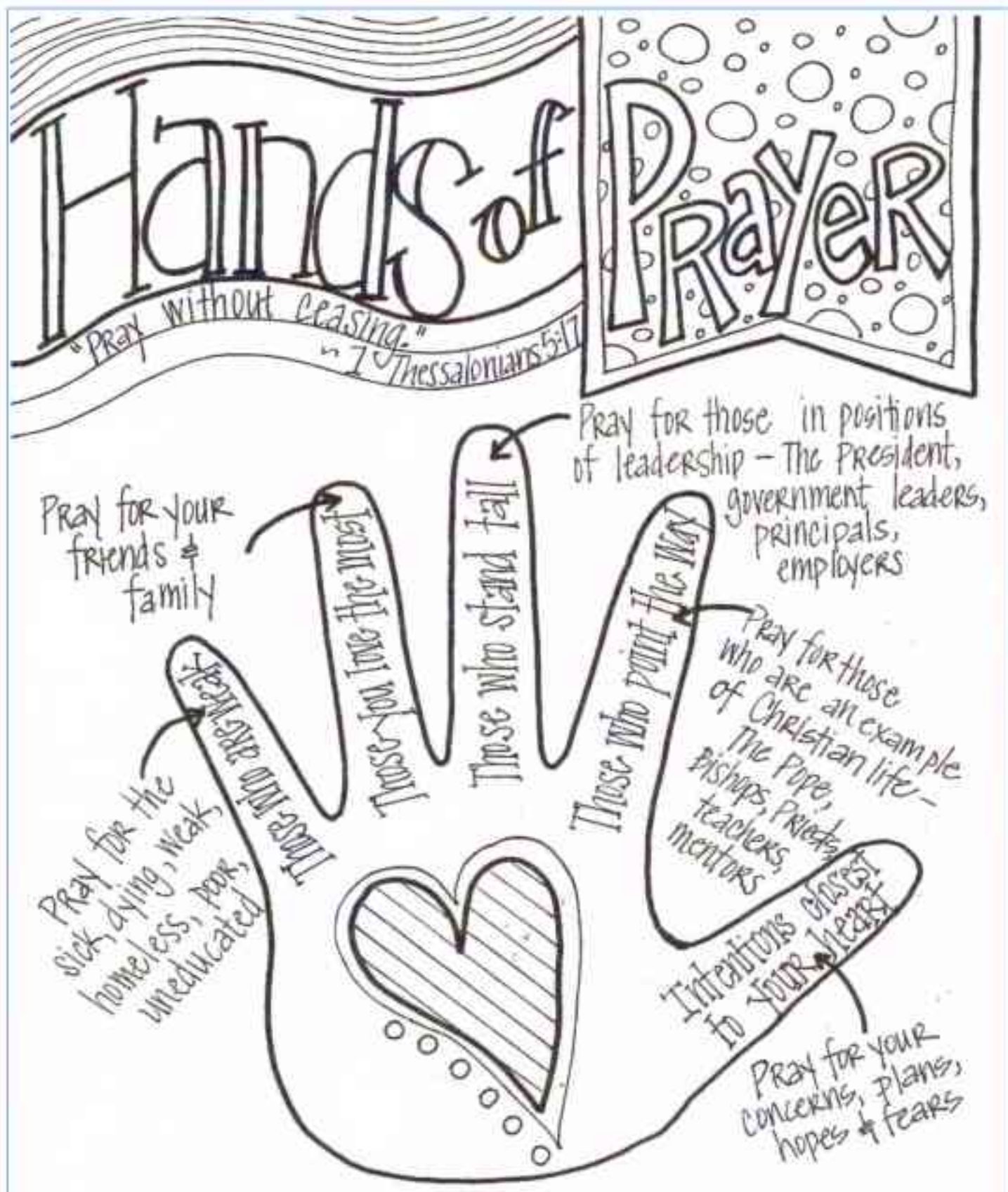
The response of the body of Christ has always been prayer. Prayer is our opportunity to go to our heavenly father in conversation, trusting that God will do anything except fail. The "Prayer Revival" has been a time of both spiritual renewal and restoration. Over these past 40 days we have been led to "The Throne Room" by clergy and Lay from across denominational lines throughout the country. Our time in prayer has not been a moment to see who prays the best, but a time to seek God's face. In addition to being led in prayer each night we have gained wisdom, knowledge and understanding through powerful teachings on what prayer is and is not.

Personally, I would like to thank each of you for participating and celebrating through prayer. During these most perilous times, I believe the movement of God is essential to our growth and the change that needs to take place. As this time revival comes to an end, I encourage you to keep the spirit of excitement and the commitment to pray. Family, I pray that God continues to keep all of us in His loving arms and we continue to move forward to the unknown days ahead of us!

Peace & Blessings,

Maurice Wright, II
Pastor Wright

Kids' Corner
Teach Me How to Pray



Personal Reflections on the 40-Day Prayer Revival

Here are just a few of the many reflections and personal testimonies from the "Forty-Day Prayer Revival."

"Thank you Elder Hunter for blessing us with those inspiring words."

—Sister Abbiegail Hugine

"I pray God will speak to you to continue. This has just been such a blessing!!!" —Nkenge Hyter

"Thank you Pastor for your leadership and servant spirit these past 40 days." — Brother Bobby Adkins

"Cousin, thank you for being faithful. What an awesome prayer revival." —Tammy Hawkins

"Thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you my Brotha for the journey of 40 days. May God continue to Bless and Use you to His Glory." — Mokgabo Gwen Senatle

"I am Blessed. Thank you for praying for me and for my family especially Kaitlyn." —Sister K. Dulaney

"Outstanding!!!" —Steward Clifton Miller

"It was refreshing and renewed my spirit, especially during a time of great challenge." —Anonymous

"The 40 Day Prayer Revival was not only spiritually uplifting, but a great learning experience. The meditations on the concept of prayer were very enlightening." —Member

"It was wonderful...and very much needed."
—Deaconess Mary Powers

"I looked forward after coming in from work to the prayer meditation and the prayers. It really helped me endure the challenges of working with families in crisis and being on my own during this pandemic. It was a blessing to hear the prayers of reassurance and faith being lifted each night."
—Sister Donnie Thompson



CPR Ministry Partnership with Alabama Cooperative Extension

Researching Your Genealogy

The Caregivers' Prayer and Respite Ministry in partnership with the Alabama Cooperative Extension delivered via ZOOM a workshop on researching one's genealogy. The workshop was held on Saturday, July 18, 2020. The host for the workshop was Sister Donna Gullatte, who is a representative of the Alabama-Cooperative Extension. The special guest presenter was Mr. William H. Hampton.



Mr. William H. Hampton
Huntsville Historian

Mr. Hampton is a native of Huntsville, Alabama and the creator of the website, *Huntsville Revisited*. Mr. Hampton is also a local historian who has visited St. John on several occasions to share interesting "Stories From the Front Porch." These stories are about every day African American families who have lived in the Madison County community.

He has researched his family tree back several generations. For this event, he shared how others could begin the search for members of their own family tree.

Listed below are several websites and documents Mr. Hampton cited as resources which could be used in the search for one's ancestry. He suggested starting by interviewing the eldest family member, then seeking out the family's Bible which could hold a wealth of familial information. Other resources included but were not limited to;

- Ancestry.com
- Slave records located in the public library
- The county probate office because at the time people were considered property and all property was listed by the land owners.
- Old wills, old deeds, cemetery records
- Tax records, birth certificates, marriage records, census records, death records, obituaries, military records
- www.newspapers.com, recognizes and lists all past Negro Newspapers.
- www.ifoundmyancestorsenslavers.com
- www.findagrave.com

(Continued on page 13)

"THE WILLING SERVANT LEADER WHO STANDS TALL IN THE
MIDST OF A CRISIS"

PASTORAL APPRECIATION

HONORING

*Rev. Maurice Wright, II
&
Family*

Anniversary Theme:

"Standing Tall and Proclaiming God's Word"
1 Corinthians 15:58

10:00 a.m.
August 16, 2020



ST. JOHN AME CHURCH

220 CHURCH STREET—HUNTSVILLE, AL 35801

WWW.STJOHNAMEHSV.COM



AME Proud

Black Owned Business of the Month

I Scream! You Scream! We All Scream, for Ice Cream!



Three Scoops Ice Cream owned and operated by St. John members, Tremain and Kendall Jones, was the designated Black Owned Business for the month of July. Sunday, July 12th was declared St. John Day at Three Scoops. Pastor Wright and the St. John congregation visited Three Scoops to demonstrate community support and provide financial assistance. Three Scoops does not sell just any ice cream, they sell premium ice cream, which costs just a little bit more than store brands, but the quality is so much better. Their motto is "Three Scoops is three times the flavor."

Everything you could want in the way of ice cream could be found at Three Scoops. They even offered sugar-free ice cream. The condiment counter was loaded with sprinkles, chocolate bits, brownie pieces, nuts and more. The selection of premium ice cream was out of this world. They even had a flavor called "Superman." Members enjoyed the ice cream and the social distanced fellowship while adhering to all mandated CDC protocols. Check out the full Three Scoops menu at www.threetimestheflavor.com.



Pastor Wright and Tremain Jones, Owner
Three Scoops



St. John members enjoying ice cream at Three Scoops.

135th St. John AME Church Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin

Be one of the first members to receive this
beautifully crafted commemorative lapel pin.



\$5.00 each

Purchase from any Steward or the St. John church office.
All funds donated to the VISION 2020 Building Fund.



"Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth
the law, happy is he." Proverbs 29:18

Church School Lesson Overview – August 2020

The reviews were written by Brother Kenneth Parham

August 2, 2020

Lesson Title: Faith and Wisdom

Lesson Scripture: James 1:1-11

Print: James 1:1-11

Devotional Songs: #77[], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you" (James 1:5).

In this lesson, Apostle James offers greetings and addresses the twelve newly formed churches. He gives instructions on how to encounter and deal with trials and the assurance that through faith a believer shall prevail. Points highlighted in the lesson are: Accept trials with joy because testing one's faith only leads to endurance. Seek wisdom, if needed. Ask God in faith and He will generously provide; noting that prayers of doubters are all over the place and not sincere and therefore, God will not honor. Allow the lowly believer to boast of prosperity because it is noted the possession of the rich like flowers in the field, exposed to the sun of day, their beauty will perish and they will dry up and fade away.

August 9, 2020

Lesson Title: Hearing and Doing the Word

Lesson Scripture: James 1:19-27

Print: James 1:19-27

Devotional Songs: #461[], #251[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves" (James 1:22).

Upon reflecting on this lesson, the reviewer sees a question that apostle James proposes and then sets about to answer. The question being, "What characteristics does or should a Christian possess?"

The apostle first answers this question by indicating key characteristics which enable one to understand and love his or her fellow man. First one must be reflective; eager to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger. And secondly, he or she must be eager to lay down all manners of wickedness and welcome within one's heart and with meekness the Word that can save souls.

The apostle reminds us to not only be hearers of the Word but also doers of the Word. He indicates that those who are only hearers are like looking at one's reflection in the mirror. While looking at one's reflection one is reminded of what

living a Christian life means and at that point in humanity, one has two options upon turning away from the mirror, to act or become doers of the Word or turn away from the Word.

A simple test that the apostle asks each of us who claims to be doers of the Word is to take notice of how we take care of the less fortunate (the orphans, widowers, or even the African American in distress) while at the same time attempting to keep one's character unstained by the world.

August 16, 2020

Lesson Title: Faith Without Works Is Dead

Lesson Scripture: James 2:14-26

Print: James 2:14-26

Devotional Songs: #25[], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead" (James 2:26).

Herein, Apostle James discusses the importance of works to justify one's faith. He sets out by asking a simple question, "Can one be saved by faith alone?" As noted in the Sunday School commentary, James makes a convincing argument showing how faith without works is incomplete. James cites the examples of how faithful Abraham was in the act of sacrificing his son, Isaac, to show his faithfulness and he cites the prostitute, Rahab, who protected the messengers. James could have cited many more examples to demonstrate his point. One that comes to mind is that of David, a shepherd. Even though David professed great faith in God, he thought it necessary to confront the giant, Goliath, when all of the Israelite soldiers were afraid.

The reviewer reflects back on his Christian upbringing and remembers many ministers indicating that the only requirement for salvation was to confess with one's mouth that Jesus is the son of God and to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead shall be saved (Romans 10:9). In that moment of professing our belief in Jesus and God as His father, we were saved. However, the acts of confessing and believing did take work on our part and tends to support Apostle James' position on the subject.

August 23, 2020

Lesson Title: Taming the Tongue

Lesson Scripture: James 3:1-12

Print: James 3:1-12

Devotional Songs: #97[], #323[], and #243[]

(Continued on page 12)

Key Verse: The tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. James 3:5

In this lesson James cautions spiritual teachers to be on guard because there will be those who will indeed measure every word that one speaks and will see if the teacher's life-style is in fact in line with the words spoken. And how hard is it to live perfect? James indicates that this is a very difficult task and presents a scenario where it takes strong winds to move a large sail boat, but it only takes a small rudder to steer the vessel. He then implies that the tongue is representative of a rudder and has caused many catastrophes to occur. As the tongue speaks or turns, it causes the head and other parts of the body to turn. It regulates how the body responds to outside stimuli in order to protect its host, the body. It will, as James indicates, expound on great exploits or it is capable to cause death and destruction by the use of malicious words. James notes that all animals (including fish and fowl), created by God, were placed under Adam's control but how is it that no one can control the tongue. James calls the tongue a restless evil full of deadly poison. James goes on to indicate that the tongue speaks both blessings and curses; indicates that this should not be so and highlights that this is not in line with God's other creations (verse 11, "Can a spring bring forth brackish and fresh water or can a fig tree produce grapes?").

The Life Application Study Bible commentary utilized in preparing this review gives us hope on taming the tongue. Comment indicates "... that although we cannot control the tongue, we via discipline granted through the holy spirit can learn how to reduce the damage caused by the tongue."

August 30, 2020

Lesson Title: Two Kinds of Wisdom

Lesson Scripture: James 3:13-18; 5:7-12

Lesson Print: 3:13-18; 5:7-12

Devotional Songs: #321[]; #97[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy" (James 3:17).

In this lesson, Apostle James speaks of two kinds of wisdom, having patience and honoring one's word.

Apostle James indicates that there are two types of wisdom. The reviewer would like to identify the types as earthly wisdom and God-given wisdom. Earthly wisdom is noted as not being of God but is an earthly gift. Those having envious and selfish ambitions devise all types of opportunities to obtain their end goals. The text indicates that we should not boast

of having this type of wisdom because along the way, there will be disorder and wickedness. God-given wisdom is noted as being originated from a pure, peaceful, gentle and willingness to yield spirit sent from above; and the possessor of this wisdom seeks to obtain peace as a goal. A goal filled with mercy and good deeds without partiality or hypocrisy.

Apostle James speaks on patiently waiting for Christ's return and the concept of suffering. He illustrates patience as a farmer waiting on his crops to grow. He indicates all should strengthen their hearts and be in accord with one another so that everyone may not be judged. He deals with suffering by indicating that all believers be reminded of the life of Job and what the prophets endured.

Lastly, as a footnote, Apostle James indicates that Christians should not swear either upon things in heaven or things on earth. Believers should let their "Yes" be yes and their "No" be no to avoid condemnation.



During the months of August and September Church School will meet on ZOOM Meeting.

Topic: Church School Zoom Meeting

Time: Sundays 9am - 9:45am (Church School)
Mid-day Fellowship, Mon. - Sat. 11:30am

From a computer, tablet, or cell phone

Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09)

[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017 348

From a telephone: One tap mobile

+13126266799,462687112# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,462687112# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017 348



Church School Book Club

July 2020

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Discussion Date: July 18, 2020

Where the Crawdads Sing, Delia Owens, 2018.

August 2020

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Discussion Date: August 15, 2020

The Storyteller's Secret, Badani, Sejal, 2018.

Nothing prepares Jaya, a New York journalist, for the heart-break of her third miscarriage and the slow unraveling of her marriage in its wake. Desperate to assuage her deep anguish, she decides to go to India to uncover answers to her family's past.

Intoxicated by the sights, smells, and sounds she experiences, Jaya becomes an eager student of the culture. But it is Ravi—her grandmother's former servant and trusted confidant—who reveals the resilience, struggles, secret love, and tragic fall of Jaya's pioneering grandmother during the British occupation. Through her courageous grandmother's arrestingly romantic and heart-wrenching story, Jaya discovers the legacy bequeathed to her and a strength that, until now, she never knew was possible. — Amazon

**Absentee
Ballot
Request**

Absentee Ballot Applications for the Municipal Election

Absentee Ballot Applications for the August 25, 2020 municipal election will be available for anyone wanting to vote by Absentee

Ballot. This will be a Huntsville city election for mayor, city council and school board members for District 1 and 5.

Ballot Applications may be picked up on **Saturday, August 1, 2020 between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon** when you pick up your Communion elements.

For additional information visit, www.alabamavotes.gov.

Digitizing St. John AME Church Records and Documents July 24th and July 31st

This event will be rescheduled
at a later date.

CANCELLED!

(Continued from page 8)

Researching Your Genealogy

- ♦ www.ourblackancestry.com

Mr. Hampton closed by stating while it may seem a daunting task to search out one's family history, it can be quite surprising as well as rewarding.

Mr. Hampton is also the curator of a newly opened museum in Huntsville. The Huntsville Revisited Museum is located at 2007 Suite 0 in the H.C. Blake Art & History Center on North Memorial Parkway.

Announcements



St. John AME Church Worship Service Live Streaming

Until worship returns to the sanctuary, the 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms.

- Church website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com
Click on "View Livestream"
- St. John Face Book Page: [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)
- **Youtube** at St. John AME Huntsville or
- Vimeo at St. John AME

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study
Wednesday 12 noon and 6:00 p.m.

St. John Face Book Live Stream
Visit at [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using
Givelify, Paypal, CashApp@5STJOHNHSV or sending your offering to the church via U.S. Post Office.

Sending via U.S. Post Office; Complete the form below, cut along the dotted line and submit in an envelope with your check.



Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

229 Church Street NW • Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Reverend Maurice Wright, II Pastor

*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?
I will pay my vows unto the Lord. (Psalms 116:12, 14a)*

Date _____ ☐ Visitor ☐ Member
☐ Member, check box if change of address
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____ ☐ Verified

➤ Check each box that applies

☐ Tithes	Amount _____
☐ Offering	_____
☐ Benevolence	_____
☐ Sunday School	_____
☐ Soup Kitchen	_____
☐ Daniel Payne	_____
☐ Building Project	_____
☐ Holiday Food Box	_____
☐ Other	_____
TOTAL	_____

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	3	4	5 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	6	7 AMEN Staff Meeting TBA	8
9 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	10	11	12 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	13	14 SBHBD Harvest Home Greater St. Paul/ Matthews Chapel Scottsboro, AL August 14-15	15 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club 10:00 a.m. Healing Hearts Min.
16 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship Pastoral Appreciation Sunday	17	18 Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	19 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	20 6:00 p.m. Prison Ministry	21 10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting	22
23 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	24 Official Bd. Meeting 6:00 p.m.	25 Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	26 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	27	28	29
30	31					

Highlighting Our Youth

Samantha's Star Spangled Cake

Cake Ingredients:

3 & 2/3 cups cake flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 & 1/2 cups unsalted butter (softened to room temperature)
2 cups granulated sugar
3 large eggs (at room temperature)
2 egg whites (at room temperature)
1 Tablespoon pure vanilla extract
1 & 1/2 cups buttermilk
Red and Blue gel food coloring

Vanilla Buttercream:

1 & 1/2 cups unsalted butter (softened to room temperature)
6 cups confectioners' sugar
1/3 cup whole milk or heavy cream
1 & 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
1/8 teaspoon salt
Red and Blue gel food coloring



Samantha's Star Spangled Cake

Instructions for making the cake.

- ◆ Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour three 9 inch baking pans and line with parchment paper and grease the parchment paper.
- ◆ Whisk the cake flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda together. Set the mixture aside.
- ◆ Using a handheld or stand mixer, beat the butter and sugar together on high, in a large bowl, until smooth and creamy. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl with a spatula as needed.
- ◆ Beat in the eggs, egg whites and vanilla extract on high until combined. The mixture will look curdled due to the egg and butter combining.
- ◆ Turning the mixer on low speed, add the dry ingredients into the mixture. While the mixer is still on low, add the buttermilk and mix until combined.
- ◆ You may need to mix it by hand to ensure that there are no lumps on the bottom of the bowl. The batter will be slightly thick.
- ◆ Pour the batter evenly into three separate bowls. Then mix the blue gel food coloring into one bowl, and red to another bowl.
- ◆ Add as much food coloring as needed to get the desired shade. Leave the last bowl without food coloring. Pour each of the bowls into the three cake pans. Bake for approximately 23-26 minutes. Test to see if they are done by, inserting a toothpick into the center of the cake. If it comes out clean, the cake is done. Once baked, leave the cakes to completely cool before adding frosting.

Making the Buttercream:

In a large bowl, beat the butter on medium to high speed until creamy.
Turn the mixer on low, then add the confectioners' sugar, milk or heavy cream, vanilla extract, and salt.

Highlighting Our Youth

Add more sugar if the frosting is too thin, more milk or heavy cream if too thick, or a pinch of salt if too sweet. Distribute about 2 cups of icing into a small bowl and mix blue food coloring into the icing, then set aside. Put about 1/3 of the leftover icing into a bowl and then add red food coloring. Set aside the three bowls of icing.

Assembling the Cake:

- ◆ If your cakes cool with a dome top, use a large serrated knife or cake leveler to cut the top and create a flat surface. Discard the extra cake.
- ◆ Place the blue cake on the stand or plate that will hold the finished cake.
- ◆ Evenly ice the top of the cake with about 1 inch of white frosting.
- ◆ Put the white cake on the blue cake then again, ice the top with about 1 inch of white frosting.
- ◆ Next, put the red cake on the white cake and top with a very thin layer of white icing.
- ◆ Spread a thin layer of white icing on the top and sides of the cake.
- ◆ Visually divide the top of the cake into 4 quadrants, top left, top right, bottom left, and bottom right.
- ◆ Using an icing spatula or butter knife, ice the top left quadrant in a layer of the blue buttercream that was previously set aside.
- ◆ Use all of the blue buttercream, or as much as you desire.
- ◆ Once the top left quadrant is blue bring back the red and white icing that was also set aside.
- ◆ Using two new butter knives, carefully use one knife with red icing on it and ice a horizontal line on the top of the cake to start the stripes of the flag.
- ◆ Next, ice a white line below the red line.
- ◆ Continue making lines until the top of the cake resembles a flag.



Samantha with the finished product. Yummy!

Now that the top of the cake is done it's time to move onto the sides.

- ◆ With your red and white buttercream, ice vertical lines onto the sides of the cake all the way around.
- ◆ Once the top and sides of the cake are iced, put the leftover white icing into a frosting bag fitted with a circular or starred tip.
- ◆ Carefully put dots of icing onto the blue quadrant to represent stars on a flag.
- ◆ Make each dot about an equal length apart.
- ◆ Finally, refrigerate your cake for at least an hour before cutting, as this helps the slices come out clean and the cake to hold its shape.

I baked this cake for the 4th of July. I hope you enjoy this recipe.

Samantha Adkins

This recipe was heavily inspired by Sally's Baking Addiction's "Best Vanilla Cake" - <https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/vanilla-cake/#tasty-recipes-66418>

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(256) 534-3265

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E-mail: office@stjohnhuntsville.com
Website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com

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Huntsville, AL
Permit No. 240

The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor



That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

INDNJC

ST. JOHN A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 25 Issue 8

August 2020



The 2020 School Year Poses Many Questions

B. Johnson

Last year this time the only question which was being pondered was, "What am I going to wear on the first day of school?" This question is asked by every school kid and teacher annually. However, fast forward, 365 days from then. What will be worn on the first day of school, will be the least of a student's concern now. Parents, teachers, administrators, and students have much more to be anxious about this year. The major question being, "Will school actually open or will students attend virtually?" That question was answered a few weeks ago when the three school districts, Huntsville City, Madison City and Madison County came together for a press conference. There they announced that due to the rising cases of the Coronavirus in Madison County, school attendance would be virtual and online for the first nine weeks of the school year. That pretty much answered the question as to what to wear on the first day of school...anything you want.



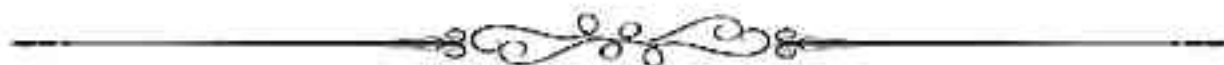
Since the notice of school going virtual was announced the questions have abounded. Examples of questions include, how will my children receive their instruction? I must return to work, how are my students going to learn? My neighborhood is WIFI deficient, how are my kids going to keep up? What about the kids who will miss the free meal program and face food insecurities? How is the system going to ensure that students are not deprived of a meal? We cannot forget about the sports programs, the students were deprived of a full athletic season in the spring, are they once again not going to have fall sports? This is my senior year...what a bummer. I miss my friends, when will I be able to be with them? I'm tired of ZOOM. I'm bored. Teachers are worried not only about the health of their own children and the students, but also about their own health. So many questions and so little resolved.

The pandemic has placed everyone in a very precarious position. Just as this was a new experience for the religious communities who had never worshipped during a pandemic, so it is for the educational community on all levels. All plans for restarting schools are fluid. Plans are changing daily. All three school systems have posted on their websites information for parents to review regarding virtual or online learning. Administrators and teachers are in the buildings preparing for the first day of school, which was August 17th for Huntsville City. Madison County will begin two days later on August 19th. Madison City was the very first system to open its doors on August 10th.

Students will be offered three choices of instruction: Virtual, online and in-person classes. In-person classes, means that students will be attending classes on the school campus. Administrators and teachers have assured the public that there will be adherence to all CDC safety precautions. Online classes will be those classes offered via a laptop and the platform of the system's choice, such as *Schoology Learning Management System* or *Schools PLP* (Personalized Learning Plan).

Huntsville City Schools has outlined its school opening plan on its website www.huntsvillecityschools.org. Parents are encouraged to visit the site and review the *Reset Plan* document which answers many of the questions parents may have. Madison City has posted its *School Re-Entry Information* on its website at www.madisoncity-12.al.us. Madison County's *Back to School Plan* can be reviewed at www.mcsc12.org.

And the final question which comes to mind when returning to school, "What did you do on your summer vacation?" Considering it began in March, it is obvious that the answers will vary.



St John AME: On the Front Lines Through Civic Engagement

By Bobby Adkins II

It is clear that 2020 has been challenging and filled with plenty of hardship and struggle as many can attest. For many, Clifton Jones said it best in his often recorded and performed gospel hit, "Trouble in My Way", when he writes "Trouble in My Way, I Have to Cry Sometimes."

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with many Americans feeling the weight of health care inequality, systemic racism, economic inequities, and gross injustice within the criminal justice system, one would be excused for hanging their head and weeping. However, as protests against injustice have gained renewed attention nationally, sweeping the nation in both rural and urban communities, we should be reminded of how Jones ends the song, writing, "Jesus will fix it. It's gonna be alright in the morning. Jesus will fix it... After a while."

The book and hit movie *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson, grabbed national headlines earlier this year by depicting the real-life inequities in the criminal justice system. It examined how racism impacts every aspect of policing and judicial punishment. The deaths of George Floyd, Amanda Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, to name the most prominent this year, have brought the big screen to life. Their stories furthering the argument that the system is broken and disproportionately impacts people of color, often with catastrophic consequences.

History tells us that the African-American community has carried the brunt of social and political injustices. Injustices which have created structural and systemic constraints, as well as an uneven playing field for people of color. These concerns have had devastating consequences for many in our communities. To counter these inequalities, African-Americans, to include St. John AME members, have been leading the fight in pressing for social change, serving on the front lines locally and nationally.

The Coalition for Justice through Civic Engagement
VOTER REGISTRATION and CENSUS DRIVE*
In Cooperation With
EJI NMD LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALABAMA
VOTE
Saturday, August 8, 2020
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Walmart Neighborhood Store
4230 Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, Alabama 35891
**SHAPE YOUR FUTURE - USE YOUR VOICE
STAND UP! BE COUNTED!**

The CJCE hosted a Voter Registration and Census Drive on 08 August 2020



L. to R. Coalition for Justice thru Civic Engagement members, Ms. Karen Stanley, Dr. Tonya Perry, and Dr. Jeanette Jones are active participants in local civic activities, engaging with community and elected leaders in the push for positive social change.

St. John AME members have stepped to the forefront in pushing for criminal justice reform, and civic action. The Coalition for Justice through Civic Engagement (CJCE), led by St. John AME member Dr. Tonya Perry, is leading the way in the Huntsville Metro Community by shining a spotlight on a number of key initiatives. The coalition hopes to bring attention to Voter Registration, the CENSUS 2020 (and its significance), support for Black-Owned Business (August is Black Business Month), COVID-19 testing, and the removal of Confederate Monuments and Statues from Huntsville Municipal Areas.

On August 8, 2020, the CJCE hosted a Voter Registration and Census Drive at the Walmart Neighborhood Store on Oakwood Avenue in Huntsville. Through effective use of social media advertising and via word of mouth, census information was disseminated to citizens of the community. Many were registered to vote, and voter precinct locations and information of voter accessibility was provided. Throughout the summer and into the fall election season, additional Voter Registration drives will be held.

St John AME: On the Front Lines Through Civic Engagement

By Bro Bobby Adkins II

(Continued from page 3)

As protest grew into the summer, issues surrounding legacy confederate artifacts, particularly the confederate flag and monuments honoring Confederate Soldiers, came into focus. When the Mississippi State Legislature voted overwhelmingly to replace its state flag, which contains the confederate battle emblem, people with a vested interest locally paid attention. As a native Mississippian, this author was well pleased with this change, as it reflects a monumental shift in the southern narrative regarding the significance and use of these racist symbols in public spaces.

Locally, St. John AME members were active in fighting for the removal of Confederate Statues from local municipal locations. Weekly protests have captured the attention of local media and encouraged a summer of activism not seen in the Huntsville area in many years. The expanded diversity of the protestors has been equally encouraging, especially in a Deep South state like Alabama. St. John AME members have traveled across the state in support of removing confederate images, whether at the state capital or in support of local activities to our west in Florence, AL.

In an adjacent initiative, St. John AME members, partnering with Faith in Action – Alabama, Huntsville Hub (FIAA-HSV) have moved forward with the Freedom Vote 2020 Statewide Voter Engagement Campaign, which launched August 4th and runs through November 3rd. Participants from the African Methodist Episcopal denomination have included Bishop Harry L Seawright, Ninth Episcopal District; and St. John's Dr. Thalia Love-Brown; Brother Willie Sandifer; Brother Bobby Adkins; and Dr. Jeanette Jones.

Per the FIAA-HSV Facebook page, the goal of FIAA's Freedom Vote 2020 is to reach out to over 160,000 African American, Latino, and low-wealth white Alabamians. Training is focused on conducting the campaign's voter engagement phonebank sessions. Over 40 congregational and communal phonebank teams are the foundation of FIAA's Freedom Vote 2020 Campaign. St. John AME will host a phonebank in August.

Along with phone banking, the core components of FIAA's Freedom Vote 2020 are social media, relational organizing, email, and pulpit announcements. The training also included discussions about how our voter engagement work will impact powerful issues and voter engagement campaigns in 2021 & 2022. Critical to this great turnout was the work of FIAA's member, Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton of the Fifth Episcopal District of The CME Church, Bishop Seth Larney of the Alabama-Florida Episcopal District of the AME Zion District and Bishop Harry L. Seawright of the Ninth Episcopal District of The AME Church.

With crucial elections on the horizon, St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church will continue to serve on the front lines for social change. To God be the Glory as we look for "Good Trouble."



Protesters, to include CJC members, gather in Huntsville to encourage city leaders to remove Confederate Statues from Municipal Buildings. (Paper Crane Photo)



Protestor is gathered to demand change and for the removal of Confederate statues from municipal site. (Paper Crane Photo)

St. John AME Church

Stellar Awards

ATTENTION!

St. John experienced technical difficulties on the night of this presentation. The problems have been resolved. The entire WWII Stellar Awards Program will be replayed on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The program can be viewed on St. John's Face Book page.



Celebrating

REVEREND MAURICE WRIGHT, II

Through

"SONGS, DANCE AND PRAISE"

THE GREATEST NIGHT OF CELEBRATION



STELLAR

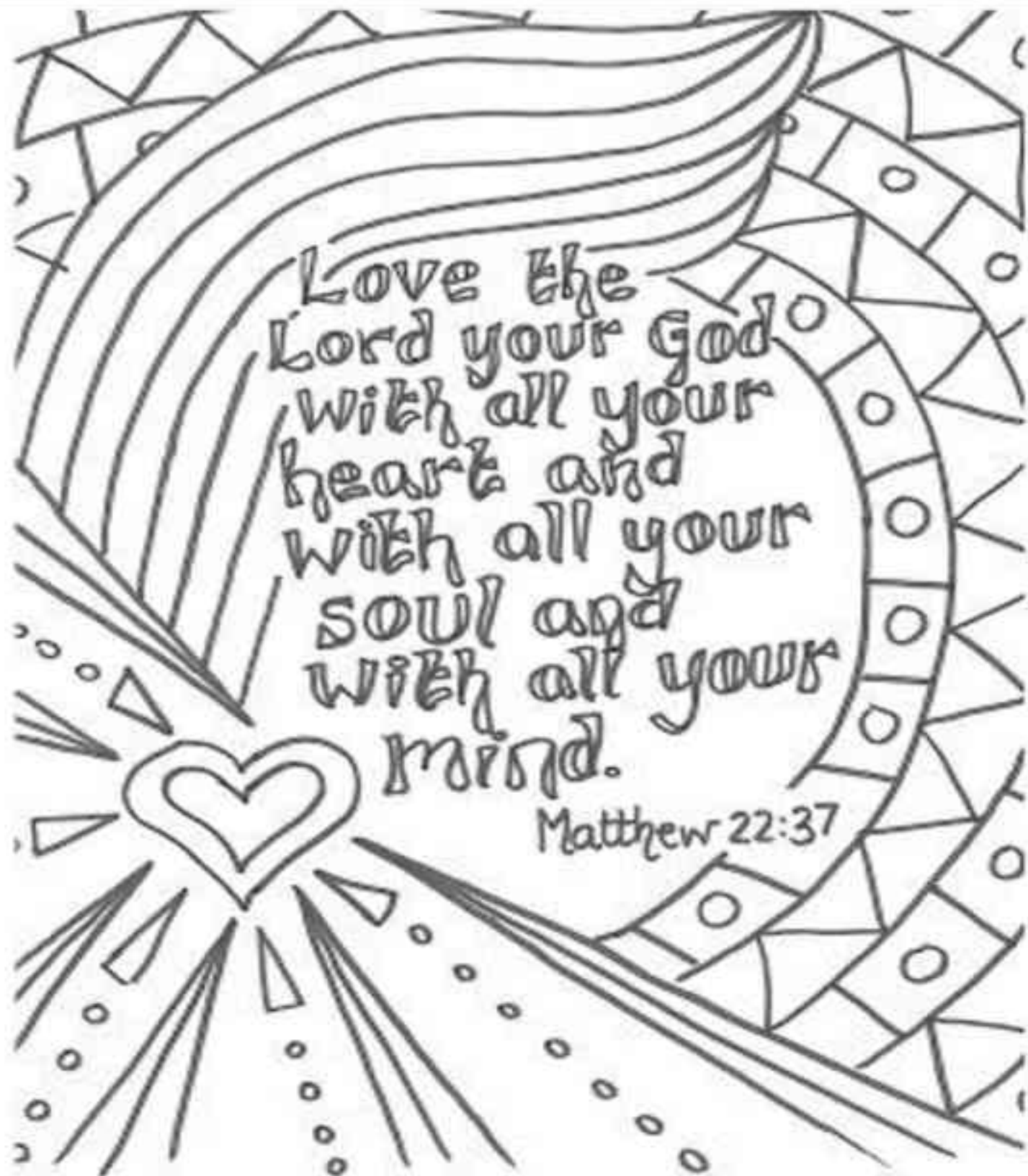


VIA ST. JOHN AME'S FACEBOOK PAGE

AUGUST 15TH-7:00 P.M.

Stellar Awards

Kids' Corner



Prayers to color in! [Pinterest post] Pinterest. Retrieved August 2020 from <http://pinterest.com>

Pastoral Appreciation Drive-By

Beep, Honk & Wave

Congrats
Pastor



Saturday, August 15th

LINE UP TIME: 1:00 P.M.



YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING YOUR LOVE TOKENS AT THIS TIME.
ELECTRONIC GIFTS MAY BE SENT VIA Cash App to \$amepreacher.

ENTER FROM CHURCH STREET INTO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PARKING LOT

PARADE STARTS @ 1:30P.M.

Annual Conference Calendar

2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

11th Session of the Alabama River Region Annual Conference

August 22 - WMS & YPD Annual Conference

August 25-28, 2020

Ward Chapel AME Church - Prattville

Rev. Darryl Erwin

11th Session of the Northwest Alabama Annual Conference

September 5 - WMS & YPD Annual Conference

September 8 -11, 2020

DANIEL PAYNE COMMUNITY PLAZA

1500 Daniel Payne Drive, Birmingham, AL 35214 Host: TBD

11th Session of the Southeast Alabama Annual Conference

September 19 - WMS & YPD Annual Conference

September 22 - 25, 2020

Johns Chapel AME Church - Enterprise

Rev. Willie White

11th Session of the Northeast Alabama Annual Conference

October 3 - WMS & YPD Annual Conference

October 6 - 9, 2020

Bethel AME Church - Phenix City

Rev. Jesse Grooms

11th Session of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference

October 17 - WMS & YPD Annual Conference

October 20 - 23, 2020

St. John AME - Kushla

Rev. Benjamin Lightner

2020 Planning Meeting

November 4 - 6

DANIEL PAYNE COMMUNITY PLAZA

1500 Daniel Payne Drive, Birmingham, AL 35214

Ninth Episcopal District Office

1500 Daniel Payne Drive | Birmingham, Alabama 35214

205.326.4499 (Office) • 205.326.4434 (Fax)

www.ninthamechurch.org

Dates and locations subject to change.

"THE WILLING SERVANT LEADER WHO STANDS TALL IN THE
MIDST OF A CRISIS"

PASTORAL APPRECIATION

HONORING

*Rev. Maurice Wright, II
&
Family*

Tune In Via St. John AME's Facebook Page

Anniversary Theme:

"Standing Tall and Proclaiming God's Word"
1 Corinthians 13:58

10:00 a.m.
August 16, 2020

GUEST SPEAKER:

Reverend Dr. Carlton Byrd, Pastor

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CHURCH
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA



AME Proud

Black Owned Business of the Month



Cupcakes for My Cupcake, LLC

Barbara Williams-Vazquez is the owner of *Cupcakes for My Cupcake*. A native of Hartford, Connecticut, Barbara and her family moved to Huntsville in 2017. She is a ba-ke'-ster. A ba-ke'-ster, is an old world term for a female baker. She studied baking at the Connecticut Culinary Institute in Hartford. Her company motto is, "We provide customers with a sweet experience from cupcakes, to cakes and more. We offer a variety of baked goods that would tantalize your taste buds." Barbara formed her company in 2016 in Connecticut. Closed it as she made the transition to Huntsville, then a year ago reopened the company in 2018.



Mrs. Barbara Williams-Vazquez, Owner/Bakestar

Her future plans are to open a brick and mortar location. She aspires to hire a chocolatier and a sugar arts specialist to add to her repertoire of creative artistry. Giving back to the community is also a goal. She anticipates being able to give back to the homeless community in the future. And as her company grows, she hopes to be able to leave the business to her daughters, to move the business to the next level of ownership and productivity.

Barbara Williams-Vazquez, *Cup Cakes for My Cupcakes, LLC* can be reached at the following site: www.cupcakesformycupcakes.com. Products may be ordered via her website, text message (256-384-4303), Instagram account or her FaceBook page.

Barbara, her husband Jonathan and daughters, Jordan and Naelah are members of St. John AME Church.



Emoji Cake



Velvety White Cake w/
Traditional Buttercream
Frosting



Lemon Raspberry Cake w/
Lemon Cream Cheese
Frosting



Bass Cake

Thank You

Deaconess Ernestine Barnes-Ivery would like to thank the St. John Family for the calls, cards, prayers and all expressions of love shown during her recovery from knee surgery and the loss of her brother.

Your generosity and kindness will be forever remembered.

—Deaconess Ernestine Barnes-Ivery



Church School Lesson Overview – September 2020

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer

September 6, 2020

Lesson Title: Biased Love

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 25:28; 35:23-26

Print: Genesis 37:2-11, 23-24A, 28

Devotional Songs: #355[], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind" (Genesis 37:11).

In this lesson we glimpse favoritism and what it can do and has done in families. Hatred mixed with envy was created in Joseph's older siblings by Jacob showing Joseph favoritism.

We see God's hand at work still as Joseph is sent ahead as to be in place to prepare Egypt for a seven-year famine. This famine affected not only Egypt but the surrounding area as well. Joseph may have seen only a life of slavery ahead but God saw the blessing that Joseph would be to his brothers.

September 13, 2020

Lesson Title: Obedient Love

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 41:14-57

Print: Genesis 41:25-33, 37-40, 50-52

Devotional Songs: #321[], #251[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you'" (Genesis 41:39-40).

In this lesson we see that Pharaoh had dreams that neither he, his magicians or his wisemen could interpret. In the first dream seven healthy came from the Nile River and then seven ugly and gaunt cows followed them. In the second dream seven healthy heads of grain showed up on a single stalk. Then there showed up seven withered heads of grain that had been scorched by a hot wind from the East.

The former prisoner remembered Joseph when Pharaoh spoke of these puzzling dreams. He told Pharaoh of Joseph's ability to interpret dreams and Joseph was taken quickly from prison, was made presentable, and was brought before Pharaoh. Joseph gave the interpretation, offered a solution, and was appointed to implement the solution.

September 20, 2020

Lesson Title: Victorious Love

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 42

Print: Genesis 42:6-25A

Devotional Songs: #364[], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Reuben replied, 'Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood'" (Genesis 42:22).

In this lesson we see that the famine affected Egypt and other areas. People came from the surrounding areas to buy food. The area that Joseph was from was among the affected areas and his brothers, except Benjamin, came to Egypt to buy food.

Joseph could not control his tears, as he was filled with emotion after learning that Reuben had acted to spare his life. Unknown to his brothers, Joseph was planning how to see his father again and how to keep his entire family safe.

September 27, 2020

Lesson Title: Revealed Love

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 43; 45:1-15

Print: Genesis 45:1-8, 10-15

Devotional Songs: #97[], #77[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you" (Genesis 45:5).

In this lesson we find that the food the brothers bought in the last lesson has run out and they have to make a second trip to Egypt to buy food. When they arrived, Joseph gave his steward instructions to put each brother's silver in his sack and to put Joseph's special silver cup in Benjamin's sack.

When the brothers left for home, Joseph sent his steward after them and accused them of taking Joseph's cup. Of course, the cup was found in Benjamin's sack and the brothers returned to Egypt to face Joseph.

Judah stepped up and gave a plea not to keep Benjamin in Egypt, after Joseph told his brothers that Benjamin would have to stay in Egypt. Knowing Benjamin staying behind would break their father's heart, Judah offered to stay in Egypt in Benjamin's place. This offer represented a clear change from the way Judah had treated Joseph many years before.

During the months of August and September Church School will meet on ZOOM Meeting.

Topic: Church School Zoom Meeting

Time: Sundays 9am - 9:45am (Church School)
Mid-day Fellowship, Mon. - Sat. 11:30am

From a computer, tablet, or cell phone

Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCLDJ4cW1R3NXZz09)

[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCLDJ4cW1R3NXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCLDJ4cW1R3NXZz09)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017348

From a telephone: One tap mobile

+13126266799,462687112# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,462687112# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017348

**135th St. John AME Church Anniversary
Commemorative Lapel Pin**

**Be one of the first members to receive this
beautifully crafted commemorative lapel pin.**



\$5.00 each

Purchase from any

Steward or the St. John church office.

All funds donated to the VISION 2020 Building Fund.

Absentee Ballot Application

Requests for the November 3, 2020
General/Presidential Election

Absentee
Ballot
Request

Absentee Ballot Applications for the November 3, 2020 General Election or Presidential Election will be available on Saturday, September 5, 2020 between 9:00 am and noon.

Applications will be available for pick up as you come through to pick up the Communion Elements. Return your completed application as soon as possible. Your ballot will be mailed to you. Before mailing your ballot, make note of the number on your ballot. You will need this number when verifying that your ballot has been counted after the election.

It is estimated that it will take 7-10 days using the United States Postal Service, for your ballot to arrive in the circuit clerk's office, so mail your ballot immediately.

Dates to remember:

Voter registration deadline.....October 19, 2020

Absentee Voter Deadlines

Application.....October 19, 2020

Application in person.....October 29, 2020

Submission by mail.....November 2, 2020

Submission in person.....November 3, 2020

Find additional voter information or to register online visit,
www.alabamavotes.gov

Need additional assistance contact;

Barbara Johnson.....256-656-7452

Dr. Thalia Love Brown.....256-527-2082

**your VOTE
is your VOICE**



Church School Book Club

July 2020

Discussion Date: August 15, 2020
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

The Storyteller's Secret, Badani, Sejal, 2018.

September 2020

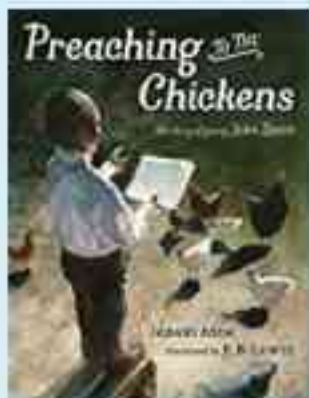
Discussion Date: September 19, 2020
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

The Life We Bury, Eskens, Allen, 2014.

College student Joe Talbert has the modest goal of completing a writing assignment for an English class. His task is to interview a stranger and write a brief biography of the person. With deadlines looming, Joe heads to a nearby nursing home to find a willing subject. There he meets Carl Iverson, and soon nothing in Joe's life is ever the same. Carl is a dying Vietnam veteran and a convicted murderer. With only a few months to live, he has been medically paroled to a nursing home after spending thirty years in prison for the crimes of rape and murder.

As Joe writes about Carl's life, especially Carl's valor in Vietnam, he cannot reconcile the heroism of the soldier with the despicable acts of the convict. Aided by his skeptical neighbor, Lila, Joe throws himself into uncovering the truth. Thread by thread, he begins to unravel the tapestry of Carl's conviction. But as he and Lila dig deeper into the circumstances of the crime, the stakes grow higher. Will Joe discover the truth before it is too late to escape the fallout? — Amazon

Young Readers Café



Preaching to the Chickens
The John Lewis Story
By
Jabari Asim
Illustrated by
E. B. Lewis

Amazon.com

Celebrating the Life of Mrs. Lanita "Nita" Forte Slaton



Mrs. Lanita "Nita" Forte Slaton

The St. John Family was blessed with the company of Mrs. Lanita "Nita" Forte Slaton for many years. We were all saddened to hear of her transition from labor to reward on July 21, 2020. She leaves to cherish her memory, her two children, Vincent and Jennifer; one brother and one sister as

well as brothers and sisters-in-law; special friends, Deaconess Sarah "Granny" Bell and Denise Chandler both of Huntsville.

Nita was a faithful member of St. John AME Church. Through the years, she served as an usher, a member of the Fifty Plus Auxiliary, participated in noon Bible Study and other committees to serve the Lord. She was most proud of working with the church's Soup Kitchen. She looked forward to Tuesdays because that was the day she served in the Soup Kitchen. Lanita often said it warmed her heart knowing that she helped make sure people in need got a nutritious meal from the St. John AME family. For Lanita, working in the soup kitchen with her team members was a labor of love.

One of her many loves was her beloved sorority of which she was a member for 32-years, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Her other love was Alabama A&M University. When she was not wearing pink and green, she would be sporting maroon and white. Lanita served Alabama A&M University in various capacities for more than 25 years.

Lanita's personability was magnetic. Her perfect mix of compassion, wisdom and "sassy-wit" drew people to her for advice, comfort and of course, comic relief.

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II was the eulogist for the home-going celebration. John 19:30 was the supporting scripture for the sermon titled, "Lanita Has Crossed the Finish Line."

St. John grieves with the family in the loss of this lovely, spirit-filled woman of the church. Lanita will be greatly missed, by the Soup Kitchen Ministry members and those she served. We rejoice in the fact that she lived a full, vibrant life.

Announcements



St. John AME Church Worship Service Live Streaming

Until worship returns to the sanctuary, the 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms.

- Church website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com
Click on "View Livestream"
- St. John Face Book Page: [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)
- **Youtube** at St. John AME Huntsville or
- Vimeo at St. John AME

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study
Wednesday 12 noon and 6:00 p.m.

St. John Face Book Live Stream
Visit at [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using
Givelify, Paypal, CashApp@5STJOHNHSV or sending your offering to the church via U.S. Post Office.

Sending via U.S. Post Office; Complete the form below, cut along the dotted line and submit in an envelope with your check.



Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

229 Church Street NW • Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Reverend Maurice Wright, II Pastor

*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?
I will pay my vows unto the Lord. (Psalms 116:12, 14a)*

Date _____ ☐ Visitor ☐ Member
☐ Member, check box if change of address
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____ ☐ Verified

➦ Check each box that applies

☐ Tithes	Amount _____
☐ Offering	Amount _____
☐ Benevolence	Amount _____
☐ Sunday School	Amount _____
☐ Soup Kitchen	Amount _____
☐ Daniel Payne	Amount _____
☐ Building Project	Amount _____
☐ Holiday Food Box	Amount _____
☐ Other	Amount _____
TOTAL	Amount _____

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
						NWAC WMS & YPD Annual Conference
6 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	7 	8 NWAC Annual Conference	9 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	10	11 AMEN Staff Meeting TBA	12
13 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	14	15	16 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	17	18	19 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
20 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	21	22 Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	23 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	24	25	26 10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting
27 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	28 Official Bd. Meeting 6:00 p.m.	29 Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	30 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study			

Highlighting Our Youth

REV. MAURICE WRIGHT II, SERVANT PASTOR



BACK TO SCHOOL IMPACT WEEK

ACCEPTING DONATIONS

ASKING A MINIMUM OF \$25.00

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GOAL

500 STUDENTS

Kids' Corner

NEW TESTAMENT WORDSEARCH

Find the books of New Testament in the wordsearch below. Then, use the left over letters to find the reason that John wrote the Gospel of John. Use the letters from the left to right, starting on the top line and working down.



Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
Thessalonians
Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrew
James
Peter
Jude
Revelation

"...but these are written so that you may _____

the _____ of _____, and that by believing _____

have _____ in _____."

John 20:31 (ESV)



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PATH THROUGH THE NARROW GATE

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The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor



*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

INDNJC

ST. JOHN A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 25 Issue 9

September 2020

Happy 4th Pastoral Anniversary!

"Standing Tall and Proclaiming God's Word"



The Reverend Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Pastor, Oakwood University Seventh Day Adventist Church,
Ms. Crystal Aikin, guest vocalist,
the Reverend Joretha Williams Wright, and the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Servant Pastor of
The Historic St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church.

"The Willing Servant Leader Who Stands Tall in the Midst of Crisis"

2020 MWII Stellar Awards

Celebrating the Reverend Maurice Wright, II Servant Pastor, St. John AME Church

B. Johnson

Lights! Camera! Action! Mrs. Janae McDowell, Mistress of Ceremonies, took the podium at exactly 7:00 pm on Saturday, August 15, 2020. It was a stellar night celebrating the 4th Anniversary of Pastor Maurice Wright, II, Servant Pastor of Historic St. John AME Church. This was the creative initiative of Steward Sharon Butler. Steward Butler enlisted the assistance of many members, friends and ministries of the church, to bring this event to fruition. The media ministry worked tirelessly to secure all the videos, sequence them and time the appearances of each guest just right. The first night brought with it some technical difficulties. However, after the challenges were resolved, the MWII Stellar Awards program was replayed glitch-free on Saturday, August 29th.



Mrs. Janae McDowell, Mistress of Ceremony
MWII Stellar Awards

The Pastor and the Reverend Joretha Wright were in attendance and were truly surprised by all those who appeared on video to honor their service.

The Steward Pro Tem, Marcus Hill opened the celebration with the occasion, followed by prayer by the Presiding Elder, (Ret.) Oliver Allen. Dr. Janette Kotey, Director of Music at First Missionary Baptist Church sang one of Pastor Wright's favorite songs, "Great is Thy Faithfulness." Greetings were brought by The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District, followed by Presiding Elder Bruce Hunter, of the South Birmingham Bessemer Huntsville District. The St. John AME Children's Choir sang, "We Worship You for Who You Are."

Tributes to Pastor Wright were next on the program beginning with The Right Reverend (Ret.) Carolyn Tyler Guidry followed by the Reverend Myron Hill, Associate Director, of Music and Christian Arts Ministry, of the AME Church. The next tribute was offered by Mr. Ronald Childress, President, of Delta Theta Lambda Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc. Followed by the Reverend Dr. Mitchell Walker, Pastor of Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. A stellar tribute was next from Bishop Frank Beard, the Episcopal Leader of the Illinois Area of the United Methodist Church.

Entertainment was provided for everyone's enjoyment by Mr. Wallace Parham, St. John AME Dance Ministry, and Master Henry Smiley, representing the youth of St. John, reading enthusiastically, Rudyard Kipling's poem, "If." Mr. Tommy Friend shared an instrumental rendition of, "Thank You Lord for All You've Done for Me."



Pastor Wright and the Reverend Joretha Wright were the guests of honor at the MWII Stellar Awards.

(Continued on page 3)

2020 MWII Stellar Awards

Celebrating the Reverend Maurice Wright, II Servant Pastor, St. John AME Church

B. Johnson

(Continued from page 2)

The momentum and anticipation had been building. And now the moment everyone had been waiting for: MWII Stellar Award nominees and announcement of the winners. The nominees for the MWII Pastor of the Year Award were; the Reverend Dr. T. D. Jakes, Bishop Nolan Jones, the Reverend Marvin Wyman and the Reverend Maurice Wright, II.

The MWII Pastor of the Year Award was presented by the Reverend Dr. Garland Pierce, Executive Director of Christian Education of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. And the winner was, (drum roll) Pastor of the Historic St. John AME Church in Huntsville, Alabama, the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Servant Pastor! (Applause).

Presenting the MWII Lifetime Achievement Award was Alabama State Representative Anthony Daniels. Pastor Wright was so surprised to have been presented with the MWII Lifetime Achievement Award.

The final award for the evening, the MWII Legend Award was presented by Ms. Jana Goggans and Mr. Eddie Whitehead, Jr. Once again, Pastor Wright was amazed at his being the recipient of such a prestigious award.

As the last award was announced, Mistress of Ceremony, Mrs. McDowel asked the recipient of the MWII Stellar Awards to come to the stage to receive his recognition.

Pastor Wright and the Reverend Joretha Wright proceeded to the stage to accept the MWII Stellar Award for Pastor of the Year, the Life Time Achievement Award and the MWII Legend Award. Applause! Applause!

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II gave a very moving acceptance speech followed by a thunderous round of applause.

The closing prayer was given by The Right Reverend Ann Henning-Byfield, of the 16th Episcopal District, of the AME Church.

The evening was truly Stellar!



Pastor Wright receiving the MWII Pastor of the Year Award, the Life Time Achievement Award and the MWII Legend Award from Pro Tem of the Board of Stewards, Marcus Hill.



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II and the Reverend Joretha Wright, giving his acceptance speech after receiving all three awards.

The MWII Stellar Awards Program and the Anniversary Worship Service can be replayed on Maurice Wright's Facebook page.

Pastoral Appreciation Drive-By Celebrating The Reverend Maurice Wright, II

A celebration of Pastor Wright and the First Family's fourth anniversary was held on Saturday, August 15, 2020. Members of the congregation were encouraged to "Beep", "Honk" and "Wave" from their vehicles as they drove by. With the help of the Trustees, Security Team and the YPDers, cars lined up early and were decorated as the parade began. The First Family had been staged on the outside of the church in a beautiful setting adorned with balloons, greenery, and a lush, draped, swag backdrop. As cars came through the procession, the first family was greeted warmly by the congregation. The parade of love and warmth was enthusiastically received by the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, the Reverend Joretha Wright, Joy, Isaiah, the Reverend Derwood Wilson, Pastor Wright's grandfather and Ms. Joetta Williams, Reverend Joretha Wright's sister.



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II, the Reverend Joretha Wright and the Reverend Derwood Wilson greeting members during the celebration Drive-By.



Members of the Board of Stewards celebrating with the First Family.



Trustees and Security Team on duty during the Drive-By.



Cars lining up for the Drive-by being decorated by the Young People's Division of St. John AME Church.

Thank You
to the following businesses for assisting in the success of the MWII Stellar Awards and the Pastoral Appreciation Drive-By.

Decorations by Couture Creations Designs and Events, LLC, Mrs. Donna Gullatte, Owner

Balloons My Way, Mrs. Yoneda Pride, Owner

Photography by Mr. Darwin Washington

"Standing Tall and Proclaiming God's Word"

B. Johnson

Sunday, August 16, 2020, Pastor Wright, the First Lady, the Reverend Joretha Wright and the family celebrated their fourth anniversary as the religious leaders of Historic St. John AME Church. It had been a full weekend of events beginning with the WWII Stellar Awards event, where Pastor Wright was the recipient of the WWII Pastor of the Year Award, the WWII Life-time Achievement Award and the WWII Legend Award. The Pastoral Appreciation Drive-By on Saturday brought streams of decorated cars and enthusiastic well wishers to greet the Wright family. Now the culminating event to round out the week of celebrating this Servant Pastor, the Sunday worship service.



The Reverend Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Pastor
Oakwood University Seventh Day Adventist Church

Steward Whitehead passionately reviewed the church announcements, followed by a special piano selection, "To God BE The Glory" eloquently performed by Mr. Roberto Burton for the occasion. The Call to Worship and prayer were given by the Reverend Charles Glover. Special guest vocalist, Ms. Crystal Aikin was introduced by Brother Reginald Pearson, Minister of Music. Ms. Aikin is a world-renowned vocalist. She was the first winner of BET's *Sunday's Best*, musical competition in 2016. She is a two time Stellar Award winner and one time nominee for a DOVE Award. She is now the Worship Pastor at the Worship Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Ms. Aikin is also Pastor Wright's sister. Ms. Aikin gave a star-studded, spiritual rendition of "Great is Thy Faithfulness," one of Pastor Wright's favorite songs. The scripture followed, 1 Thesoloinias 5:12-13 was strongly proclaimed by Steward Marcus Hill.

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II introduced the guest preacher for the occasion, the Reverend Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Pastor of Oakwood University Seventh Day Adventist Church in Huntsville. Pastor Wright welcomed Dr. Byrd to St. John with all the honor due him. At the conclusion of the introduction, Ms. Aikin took the stage once again to sing William Murphy's, hymn of praise, "You Are My Strength."

After a very warm and moving greeting, Dr. Byrd opened his sermon with prayer and scripture. The title of the sermon for the anniversary celebration was, "It's Time to Fight." He used as scripture, a very familiar passage to support the theme, "Standing Tall and Proclaiming the Word," Ephesians 6:10-11.

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Dr. Byrd was very expressive in his delivery. Out of this familiar passage, he lifted three significant points. The first point was reflective of the first word in Ephesians 6:10, "STAND." In today's climate of unrest, upheaval, and turmoil, one needs to "Stand." Stand for what's right, what's worthy, and what's Godly. The second point referenced Ephesians 6:14, "Put On." It strongly suggested that one should "Put On" the whole armor of God. It never said take it off. It said "put on" the breastplate of righteousness; shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace, take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. The emphasis is for one to put them on and keep them on. The third point was a reminder from Ephesians 6:11-12, for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the devil himself; the spirit of wickedness in high places. Then lastly, Dr. Byrd powerfully emphasized Ephesians 6:10 and the words, "be strong in the Lord." He closed by saying, "Reverend Wright as you continue to stand and proclaim the word of God, It's Time to Fight. And you can fight by Trusting in God-You are as Strong as He is. Have faith in God.

The fourth anniversary worship service for the Reverend Maurice Wright, II Servant Pastor of Historic St. John AME Church closed with the minister of music singing, Donnie McClurkin's "Just Stand."

ELECTION 2020: DO YOU KNOW THE RULES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING?

Bobby Adkins

The 2020 General Election less than two months away. Alabama eligible voters should take all the necessary steps to ensure they are registered and that they know where and when they can cast their ballots. *The AMENewsletter Team* is committed to providing St. John AME members with the latest and most accurate information related to Voter Registration and the General Election 2020.

With the near unprecedented disruptions and social distancing measures caused by COVID-19, commonly known as Coronavirus, the Alabama Secretary of State has issued an emergency amendment, pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, 55-41-22-5(b) and 41-22-6(d)(2) a. and b. The rule, titled "820-2-3-06-04ER Absentee Voting During State of Emergency – General Election 2020" went into effect on 17 July 2020. This emergency rule was drafted and approved due to the unforeseen extension of the Governor's original state of emergency and safer at home ordinances, thus necessitating the need for an emergency absentee rule for the General Election on November 3, 2020.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? Simply put, if you are an eligible and registered voter, the option to vote (and vote early) via absentee ballot, is a safe and practical option for anyone that meets Absentee Voting Eligibility criteria listed below and per the Alabama Secretary of States website @ <https://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/absentee-voting>.

NOTE: Absentee voting due to COVID-19 social distancing measures is allowable for the 2020 General Election.

ABSENTEE VOTING ELIGIBILITY: A voter may cast an absentee ballot if he or she:

- EXPECTS TO BE ABSENT FROM THE COUNTY on election day
- IS ILL OR HAS A PHYSICAL DISABILITY that prevents a trip to the polling place
- IS A REGISTERED ALABAMA VOTER LIVING OUTSIDE THE COUNTY, such as a member of the armed forces, a voter employed outside the United States, a college student, or a spouse or child of such a person
- IS AN APPOINTED ELECTION OFFICER OR POLL WATCHER at a polling place other than his or her regular polling place
- EXPECTS TO WORK A REQUIRED SHIFT, 10-HOURS OR MORE, that coincides with polling hours
- IS A CAREGIVER for a family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity and the family member is confined to his or her home
- IS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED in prison or jail and has not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude
- The deadline to submit an absentee ballot application is the 5th calendar day prior to the election.

EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTING applications can be made after the absentee deadline but no later than 5 PM on the day before the election, if the voter:

- is required by an employer under unforeseen circumstances to be unavailable at the polls on the day of the election
- is a caregiver of a person who requires emergency treatment by licensed physician within five days before an election
- has a family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity die within five days before an election

County:

Madison

Physical Address:

100 Northside Square, Huntsville, Alabama, 35801

Mailing Address:

100 Northside Square, Huntsville, Alabama, 35801

Phone Number:

256-532-3684

County:

Limestone

Physical Address:

200 Washington Street W., Athens, Alabama, 35611

Mailing Address:

200 Washington Street W., Athens, Alabama, 35611

Phone Number:

256-216-3875

[Limestone County Absentee Ballot Application.pdf](#)

(Continued on page 7)

ELECTION 2020: DO YOU KNOW THE RULES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING?

Bobby Adkins

(Continued from page 6)

MEDICAL EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTING applications can be made by a voter who has a medical emergency requiring treatment from a licensed physician within 5 days of an election. During that 5-day period, the medical emergency absentee ballot application and the voted absentee ballot must be returned no later than noon on the day the election is held. The medical emergency absentee ballot application requires that the attending physician describe and certify the circumstances as constituting an emergency. The voter may designate someone to turn in the medical emergency absentee ballot application, receive the absentee ballot on behalf of the voter, and return the voted absentee ballot to the Absentee Election Manager on behalf of the voter.

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION: To obtain an absentee ballot, write or visit the local Absentee Election Manager (usually the Circuit Clerk), request an absentee ballot, and provide the following:

- name and residential address (or other such information in order to verify voter registration)
- a copy of your valid photo identification
- election for which the ballot is requested
- reason for absence from polls on election day
- party choice, if the election is a party primary. (It is not necessary to give a party choice for a general election; however, in a party primary a voter may participate in only one political party's primary; thus a choice must be designated so that the appropriate ballot can be provided. If the voter declines or fails to designate a choice for a primary or primary runoff ballot, the absentee election manager may send only the ballot for constitutional amendments.)
- address to which the ballot should be mailed
- voter signature. (Signature must be original, electronic signatures will not be accepted. If a mark is made in place of a signature, it must be witnessed.)



The absentee ballot application must be returned to the Absentee Election Manager by the voter in person (or by the voter's designee in the case of medical emergency voting), by U.S. Mail, or by commercial carrier. No absentee ballot application may be mailed in the same envelope as another voter's absentee ballot application.

Upon receiving the absentee ballot application, the Absentee Election Manager may request additional evidence on the reason for voting absentee if the voter has a history of absentee voting. The absentee ballot applications must be turned in no later than the 5th calendar day before the election.

BALLOT RECEIPT/RETURN

If the absentee ballot application is approved, the Absentee Election Manager forwards the absentee ballot by U.S. Mail, or personally hands the absentee ballot to the voter (or to a designee in the case of medical emergency absentee voting.)

BALLOT PROCEDURE

The absentee ballot comes with 3 envelopes -- one plain (the secrecy envelope), one with an affidavit, or oath, printed on the outside, and one plain pre-addressed envelope, (the outer envelope). Once the voter casts the ballot, the procedure is as follows:

- Seal the ballot in the plain envelope
- Place the plain envelope inside the accompanying affidavit envelope
- Seal the affidavit envelope and complete the affidavit that is on the outside of the envelope



(Continued on page 8)

ELECTION 2020: DO YOU KNOW THE RULES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING?

Bobby Adkins

(Continued from page 7)

- Sign the affidavit and have the signature witnessed by either a notary public or two witnesses 18 years of age or older

WITNESSES OR NOTARIZATION

An absentee ballot cannot be counted unless the affidavit is notarized or has the signatures of two witnesses.

The voter has only the following legal ways to return the absentee ballot:

- forwards the absentee ballot by U.S. Mail
- forwards the absentee ballot by commercial carrier
- personally hands their own absentee ballot to the absentee election manager (or delivers by a designee in the case of emergency absentee voting)



VOTING DEADLINE

An absentee ballot returned by mail must be postmarked no later than the day prior to the election (02 November 2020) and received by the Absentee Election Manager no later than noon on election day (03 November 2020). If hand-delivered, the ballot must be in the office of the Absentee Election Manager by the close of business (but no later than 5 p.m.) on the day prior to the election (02 November 2020).

You may download the State of Alabama Mail-In Voter Registration Form from this page. Then, just print it, fill it out, and mail it into your local board of registrars! Any individual registering to vote must send the completed application with his/her original signature to the county's Board of Registrars in which he/she resides.

VOTING DATES / DEADLINES

- 09 Sep:** Currently received Absentee Ballot applications by the Election Manager will be mailed out
- 21 Sep:** Voters can apply for Absentee Ballot, Receive Absentee Ballot, and Cast their Ballot
- 19 Oct:** Deadline to Register to Vote
- 19 Oct:** Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot
- 29 Oct:** Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot
- 02 Nov:** Hand Deliver Ballot; Must be received by Noon

Check Your Voting Status
Find Your Polling Precinct

Visit
www.alabamavotes.gov
Click on My Polling Place
Follow the prompts

Updated Annual Conference Schedule

 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SERIES FOR THE NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT THEME: CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION IN THE NEW NORMAL - ISAIAH 43:18-19 RE: REV. HARRY L. SLAWBIDGE, PRISONAL PRELATE REV. JESSICA MICHON-SLAWBIDGE, WMS SUPPLYER 			
Tuesday, September 29th*	Wednesday, September 30th*	Thursday, October 1st*	Friday, October 2nd*
Alabama River Region Annual Conference Business Session 10:00 AM-12:30 PM	Northwest Annual Conference Business Session 10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Southeast Annual Conference Business Session 8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Southwest Annual Conference Business Session 8:30 AM-12:30 PM
Roll Call Transfers PE's Summary Report Pre-Recorded Pastors Summary (2 minutes each) MEC Report BOE Report Budget Report Memorials Report <i>(Session will resume in the afternoon if necessary)</i> 12:30 PM-2:00 PM - Break 2:00 PM Resumption of ARR Business Session if Necessary 7:00 PM Joint Opening Session Speaker: Presiding Elder Fredrick Sherrod	Roll Call Transfers PE's Summary Report Pre-recorded Pastors Summary (2 minutes each) MEC Report BOE Report Budget Report Memorials Report 12:00-12:30 PM Midday Message: Rev. Sandra Anderson 12:30 PM-2:00 PM - Break 2:00 PM-7:00 PM Resumption of NWAC Business Session 7:30 PM The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (2020 Annual Conference Series Sponsor)	Roll Call Transfers PE's Summary Report Pre-Recorded Pastors Summary (2 minutes each) MEC Report BOE Report Budget Report Memorials Report 12:30 PM-1:00 PM Midday Message: Rev. Kendra Jacobs 1:00 PM-3:00 PM - Break Northeast Annual Conference Business Session 3:00 PM-7:00 PM Roll Call Transfers PE's Summary Report Pre-recorded Pastors Summary 2 minutes each MEC Report BOE Report Budget Report Memorials Report	Roll Call Transfers PE's Summary Report Pre-Recorded Pastors Summary (2 minutes each) MEC Report BOE Report Budget Report Memorials Report 12:30 PM-1:00 PM Midday Message: Rev. Trevor Woolbridge 1:00 PM-3:00 PM - Break 3:00 PM-7:00 PM Joint Closing Session Speaker: Presiding Elder Gloria Hall Appointments *This schedule for this Series of Annual Conferences is subject to change.

Community Engagement



The new Habitat for Humanity community in Northeast Huntsville.

St. John Continues Partnership with Habitat for Humanity

By Tami McGhee

Even in the middle of a pandemic Habitat for Humanity of Madison County continues to provide affordable housing to those in need. Habitat recently cleared 8 acres of land to build over 30 homes and a community park. The subdivision is located in Northeast Huntsville off Meridian Street near J. F. Drake State Community & Technical College.

St. John will continue to partner with other local churches and organizations to build a home at this location in the fall. There have been a few changes due to COVID-19, regarding volunteering and building. However, volunteers are still needed. Information regarding the 2020 Fall Build will be forthcoming. For the building schedule and volunteer opportunities contact, Sister Tami McGhee at mcghee.tami@gmail.com.

Ninth Episcopal District WMS "Everybody Vote Initiative"



The Betty E. Derrick Women's Missionary Society Members L. to R. Lorraine Parham, President, Rosemary Wells, Dr. Thalia Love-Brown, the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Pastor, St. John AME Church and Nedra McDaniel.

The Betty E. Derrick Women's Missionary Society of St. John AME Church, gathered in full force on Saturday, September 5, 2020. Their goal was to ensure that every member of the congregation who wanted to submit an application for an Absentee Ballot had an opportunity to do so. They came prepared with applications, clip boards, pens and envelopes. Nothing was left to chance, they even provided postage if it was needed. While some members hand delivered applications to congregants as they drove up, other members made copies of their picture ID to accompany the application. WMS members also made sure the Sick and Shut-in members who were unable to get to the church received their applications as well. Members were available to assist congregants in completion of the application and answering questions regarding the Absentee Ballot process.

Since the actual Absentee Ballot requires two witness signatures or the seal of a Notary, the WMS members plan to follow-up this event with an additional session on Saturday, October 3, 2020. Again, members will be available to answer any questions, assist congregants in completing the actual Absentee Ballot, provide

the required signatures and apply the appropriate postage to mail the ballots. A notary will also be available to notarize the ballot envelop. Approximately eighty applications were distributed by the WMS members.



AME Proud

Black Owned Business of the Month

Couture Creations, LLC

Designs & Events.....Owner, Donna Gullatte



Couture Creations is a Gift from God and was born out of a desire to design products and services that speak to the unique needs of each client. Couture is a word most associated with the fashion industry. I graduated from Alabama A&M University with a degree in Fashion Merchandising and have always had a love for fashion, so it just made sense to make my business name fashion related.

My mother, Mrs. Lorene Jones, was a big influencer in my decision to get into the wedding and event business as she did many weddings and events back in the day. Owning and operating my own business was always a dream. I, along with my family have been working for over 25 years in this industry to make the dream a reality. It is my goal to go full-time upon retirement. I am extremely proud to announce that we officially became *Couture Creations, LLC* this year 2020...To God Be the Glory!

Providing décor, coordination and planning events is my passion with a special emphasis on weddings. We have been blessed to be a part of several spectacular weddings in Huntsville. *Couture Creations* has had the privilege of providing the décor for one of Huntsville's premier events, "The 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville's Annual Gala" for several years. Visit *Couture Creations'* Facebook page for additional information and vibrant pictures of our work. For more information and reserving your event contact, Donna Gullatte at 256-652-4347.

AME Proud!



Chaplain (Col) Monica R. Lawson

History was made on September 2, 2020 when the U.S. Army promoted an active-duty African American woman chaplain to the rank of colonel for the first time.

Chaplain (Col) Monica R. Lawson was given the new status in a ceremony on the Facebook page of the U. S. Army Chaplain Center and School. The African Methodist Episcopal minister is the chief of recruiting and accessions for the U. S. Army Chaplain Corps.

In her remarks, Chaplain Lawson spoke on the historic occasion of "the sin of racism" and the need for "heartfelt, heart-changing dialogue."

Chaplain Lawson, is a native of Five Points, Alabama, a graduate of Spelman College, a historically Black women's college in Atlanta, and a recipient of a Master of Divinity degree from Turner Theological Seminary, the AME Church's school on the campus of Atlanta's Interdenominational Theological Center.

Congregational News



Welcome New Member!

St. John AME Church welcomes one of its new virtual members, Ms. Tammy Hawkins. Ms. Hawkins joined St. John during the 40-Day Prayer Revival. Ms. Hawkins lives in New Jersey and is the cousin to our Pastor, the Reverend Maurice Wright, II. Welcome Ms. Hawkins!



Welcome New Members!

We also are welcoming new members, Mrs. Fallon Martin and her children, Aubrey and Zenobia. Mrs. Martin was a member of St. Paul AME Church, Miami, Florida. Mrs. Fallon Martin is the daughter of Mrs. Deborah Bland. Welcome to St. John.



Thank You!
St. John Family thank you for your calls,
cards and prayers during my illness.
Your thoughts and prayers were felt and
appreciated.

Be blessed family,
Deaconess Mary Powers



Thank You!
St. John Family, your kindnesses and
generosity during my hospitalization
will forever be remembered and
cherished. I appreciated every card,
all the calls, text messages and
prayers.

Be blessed family,
Deaconess Charlie Brooks



It's a Girl! Welcome

Little Miss Dakota Sherree Fitchard
Born
September 1, 2020
To
Ms. Druscilla Fitchard

Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Earl & Deetra Fitchard



Thank You!
As a new member at St. John, I was so
surprised to have received so many
cards and get-well wishes from the
congregation. Thank you so much for
your cards, prayers and kindnesses.
Your thoughtfulness will always be
remembered.

Warm regards,
Sister Tammy Hawkins

Church School Lesson Overview – October 2020

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer

October 4, 2020

Lesson Title: Love and Devotion to Others

Lesson Scripture: 1 Samuel 19:1-7, 23:1-18, 2 Samuel 9

Print: 1 Samuel 19:1-7

Devotional Songs: #461[], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Jonathan spoke well of David to his father, Saul, saying to him, 'The king should not sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have been of good service to you.'" (1 Samuel 19:1-7)

This lesson looks at David and Jonathan's story. They were from very different backgrounds and were not related by blood. In spite of this they developed a very strong bond between them. Their relationship was an example of agape love.

Saul was intent on either murdering David or having someone else murder him. Because David was popular with the people, Saul became jealous and filled with hate for David. Jonathan did not agree with his father's treatment of David and tried to talk with him on David's behalf. Jonathan also warned David to be alert and kept him in the loop about negotiations with his father.

October 11, 2020

Lesson Title: Love Your Enemies

Lesson Scripture: Luke 6:27-36

Print: Luke 6:27-36

Devotional Songs: #549[], #251[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you pray for those who abuse you" (Luke 6:27-28).

In this lesson Jesus used everyday issues to illustrate the differences between the world's value system and the Christian's value system. His command to love enemies was in contrast to the world's view, as the normal response by mankind toward hate is not love.

As stated on page 39 the *Liberating Faith Studies* for September 2020 – November 2020, "It is just easier to love people who love us, and who treat us how we want to be treated." But Jesus says, "love your enemies." This will signify His presence in our lives.

October 18, 2020

Lesson Title: Loving Your Neighbor

Lesson Scripture: Leviticus 19:18, 34; Luke 10:25-37

Print: Luke 10:25-37

Devotional Songs: #554[], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verses: "'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'" (Luke 10:36-37).

In this lesson Jesus extends His love lessons to include one's neighbors in His discussion with a Jewish lawyer. The lawyer intended to test Jesus to see if He were to decry Jewish laws about love.

By questioning Jesus, the lawyer put himself in position for a huge challenge, shifting to his way of thinking about his belief about how eternal life is inherited.

October 25, 2020

Lesson Title: The Most Excellent Way

Lesson Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:27-14:1

Print: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Devotional Songs: #460[], #77[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

In this lesson the church in Corinth had sent three men to visit Paul in Ephesus, because of tainted conflicts among the members. They brought a financial gift and a list of questions with them for Paul to answer.

Paul's answers to their questions were contained within his second letter to them in 1 Corinthians. The topics in the response included marriage, food sacrifice to idols, and disagreements about worship and the resurrection.



During the months of October and November
Church School will meet on ZOOM.

Topic: Church School Zoom Meeting

Time: Sundays 9am - 9:45am (Church School)
Mid-day Fellowship, Mon. - Sat. 11:30am

From a computer, tablet, or cell phone

Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09)

[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017348

From a telephone: One tap mobile

+13126266799,462687112# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,462687112# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017348

Young People's Division YPDerS



The YPD, under the leadership of the Women's Missionary Society, provides meaningful youth training programs and opportunities for leadership experience in all areas of church life, by providing training in Evangelism, Christian Social Relations and Education programs. The YPD is designed to connect youth more fully to the mission of the church and increase knowledge of the African Methodist Episcopal Church history and the scriptures.

St. John AME Church
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President
Young People's Division
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director

Membership Contact Update



Church family: Have you moved? Had a name change? Changed email address providers? Or Changed phone numbers? If so, the church membership administrators would like to know, so they can update the church membership roll and contact information. If there have been changes to your contact information, please send corrections to;

Mrs. Karol Hersey, Administrative Assistant

Email: office@stjohnhuntsville.com

Call: 256-534-3265

St. John AMEN Newsletter

Would you like to change how you receive the St. John AMEN Newsletter from a hardcopy to an email issue? Send changes to the Editor, Ms. Barbara Johnson at bjohnson76aamu@gmail.com.

135th St. John AME Church Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin

Be one of the first members to receive this
beautifully crafted commemorative lapel pin.



\$5.00 each

**Purchase from any
Steward or the St. John church office.
All funds donated to the VISION 2020 Building Fund.**



Church School Book Club

September 2020

**Discussion Date: September 19, 2020
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

The Life We Bury, Eskens, Allen, 2014

October 2020

**Discussion Date: October 17, 2020
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

My Name Is Tani...And I Believe in Miracles, Badani, Sejal, 2020.

At eight years old, Tani Adewumi, a refugee, won the 2019 New York State Chess Championship after playing the game for only a year—and while homeless.

Tani and his family fled Boko Haram's reign of terror in Nigeria to come to the United States, where they lived in a New York City homeless shelter while waiting to be granted religious asylum. Tani began attending a public elementary school and decided he wanted to join the chess program, but it required a fee. Tani's mother reached out to the coach, who offered Tani a scholarship--and a year later the young immigrant became a chess champion.

Ideal for readers ..., this adaptation presents compelling insight into: What it means to leave a comfortable home and move to a new country with nothing
What it's like to live in America as a homeless family
How it feels to be an outsider, a Nigerian, in a new school
And what it means to learn a game, compete, and experience the thrill of winning

Tani's story will inspire you to believe in the power of the human spirit to triumph over the greatest adversities. And his family's faith will inspire you to believe in miracles.

—Amazon



Young Readers' Café



Mary Had a Little Glam

By
Tammi Sauer
and
Vanessa Brantley-Newton

This little Mary has STYLE! In this fun take on Mother Goose, fashion-forward Mary helps some

of childhood's most beloved characters go glam. From the kid who lives in a shoe (and dons some fab footwear, too) to Jack, who breaks his crown but gets a great new one, Mary's school friends look fantastic in their finery.

—Amazon



Rising Above: How 11 Athletes Overcame Challenges in Their Youth to Become Stars

By
Gregory Zuckerman

Discover the inspirational real-life stories of superstar athletes like LeBron James, Stephen Curry, Tim Howard, and more!

—Amazon



Celebrating the life of
Mr. Herman Ballard



Mr. Herman Ballard

Mr. Herman Ballard transitioned from labor to reward on August 27, 2020. He was born on November 8, 1931 to the late Myrtha and Lee Ballard in Mayaline, Alabama.

Mr. Ballard accepted Christ at an early age and joined Rock Missionary Baptist Church. He joined St. John AME Church under the pastorate of the late Reverend S. S.

Hereford. He served as a Steward and member of the Men's Choir under the late Reverend Dr. Homer L. McCall.

He married the love of his life, the late Margaret Stewart on June 18, 1959 and to this union were born two daughters, Vicki and Debra.

He served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. After leaving the service he attended and graduated from Wenonah Trade School with a certificate in Commercial Cooking. Mr. Ballard perfected his culinary skills as Chef at Michael's Restaurant, the Valley Hill Country Club and the Clocktower Restaurant in Huntsville. He took a leap of faith and opened his own restaurant in Decatur, Alabama.

Mr. Ballard was preceded in death by his brothers; Lee Ballard Jr., Charles Ballard and his loving wife of 54 years, Margaret Ballard.

Precious memories of Mr. Ballard will be held close by his sister, Minnie (William) French; brothers: Hayward and Fred Ballard; two daughters: the Reverend Vicki (Donald) Mayberry and the Reverend Debra Ballard; one son, Fred (Lakisha) Holman; five grandchildren: Bobby Rice Jr., Christina (Nathan) Sanders-Hankins, Janelle Woods, Sabrina Holman and Rihanna Holman; two great-grandchildren: Braelyn Rice and Zoe Hankins; and a host of nieces and nephews.

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II was the eulogist. Others appearing during the service were Presiding Elder, Dwight E. Dillard of the Birmingham-Florence-Tuscaloosa District and Presiding Elder, Bruce Hunter of the South Birmingham-Huntsville-Bessemer District.



Celebrating the life of
Mr. Charles Glover, II



Mr. Charles Glover, II

Mr. Charles Glover, II or Lil' Charles as he was affectionately known transitioned this life from labor to reward on August 22, 2020. Lil' Charles was the oldest son of the Reverend Charles and the Reverend Vanessa Glover. He was born April 4, 1986, at Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota.

Charles, II dedicated his life to the Lord at an early age and was raised in the church by his parents. He was actively engaged in the Young People's Department and as a Junior Usher at First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Manassas, Virginia.

Being a military family, Charles, II experienced a very diverse educational experience. He was educated abroad and in the United States.

He was a premiere percussionist and loved playing the drums at every opportunity. With the same commitment, he explored and worked in telecommunications at various locations. His ultimate dream was to become an athletic shoe entrepreneur. He was finally achieving his life-long dream when the Lord called him home for a greater work.

Charles, II is survived by his parents, the Reverends Charles and Vanessa Glover; his brother Christopher Glover; his girls – Camille, Marianna, Julissa, and Alisya. His friends, Jovanna Pinilla and Veronica Forester. His maternal grandmother, Ms. Evora Farmer and Jovanna's parents, Mr. Fernando and Elizabeth Pinilla. A host of aunts, great aunts, uncles, great uncles, cousins, mentors, mentees, work associates, and his friends of 20 years, Theo Jones, Jr., Timothy Walton, Gil Gales, Kenneth Taylor, April Pattillo, Mercedes Patterson, Jarod Smith and many others.

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II was the eulogist.



Announcements



St. John AME Church Worship Service Live Streaming

Until worship returns to the sanctuary, the 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms.

- Church website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com
Click on "View Livestream"
- St. John Face Book Page: [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)
- **Youtube** at St. John AME Huntsville or
- Vimeo at St. John AME

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study
Wednesday 12 noon and 6:00 p.m.

St. John Face Book Live Stream
Visit at [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using
Givelify, Paypal, CashApp@5STJOHNHSV or sending your offering to the church via U.S. Post Office.

Sending via U.S. Post Office; Complete the form below, cut along the dotted line and submit in an envelope with your check.



Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

229 Church Street NW • Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Reverend Maurice Wright, II Pastor

*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?
I will pay my vows unto the Lord. (Psalms 116:12, 14a)*

Date _____ ☐ Visitor ☐ Member
☐ Member, check box if change of address
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____ ☐ Verified

➤ Check each box that applies

	Amount
☐ Tithes	_____
☐ Offering	_____
☐ Benevolence	_____
☐ Sunday School	_____
☐ Soup Kitchen	_____
☐ Daniel Payne	_____
☐ Building Project	_____
☐ Holiday Food Box	_____
☐ Other	_____
TOTAL	_____

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	5	6	7	8	9	10
		NEAC Annual Conference	12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study		AMEN Staff Meeting TBA	
11 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	12	13	14	15	16	17
			12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study			10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
18 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. SWAC Annual Conference	12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study			10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting
25 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Official Bd. Meeting 6:00 p.m.	Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study			

Highlighting Our Youth

WAFF Blitz Player of the Week



The high school football season has kicked off in Madison County. This year Anthony Harbin is a junior and the starting quarterback at Hazel Green High School in Madison County. In the season opener, Anthony led the team to a 22-6 win over Mae Jemison on Friday, August 21, 2020, at Milton Frank Stadium. On the first play of the game, Anthony connected with teammate Jerron Smith for an 81 yard touchdown pass. Anthony finished the game with over 200 yards passing as he was 9 of 12 with 2 touchdown passes.

His performance earned him a nomination for the Hollis Wright Huntsville High School Player of the Week via AL.com. Anthony did not win the fan poll vote for the Hollis Wright Player of the Week competition. However, his performance in the game against Mae Jemison did garner him the WAFF Blitz Player of the Week Award as announced by Carl Prather, Sports Anchor for WAFF, Channel 48 News. An award will be sent to the high school for the accomplishment.

Anthony Harbin is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Harbin and the brother of Jessica Harbin. He is a member of Historic St. John AME Church, Huntsville where he is actively engaged in the Young People's Division and a leader on the Junior Usher Board of St. John.

Congratulations Anthony! We're very proud of you!

REV. MAURICE WRIGHT II, SERVANT PASTOR



**BACK TO SCHOOL
IMPACT WEEK**
ACCEPTING DONATIONS
ASKING A MINIMUM OF \$25.00
OR ANY GENEROUS AMOUNT

CASH APP \$STJOHNHSV
GIVELIFY
SAINT JOHN'S AME CHURCH

Let's go!
GOAL
500 STUDENTS



We're on the Look Out!

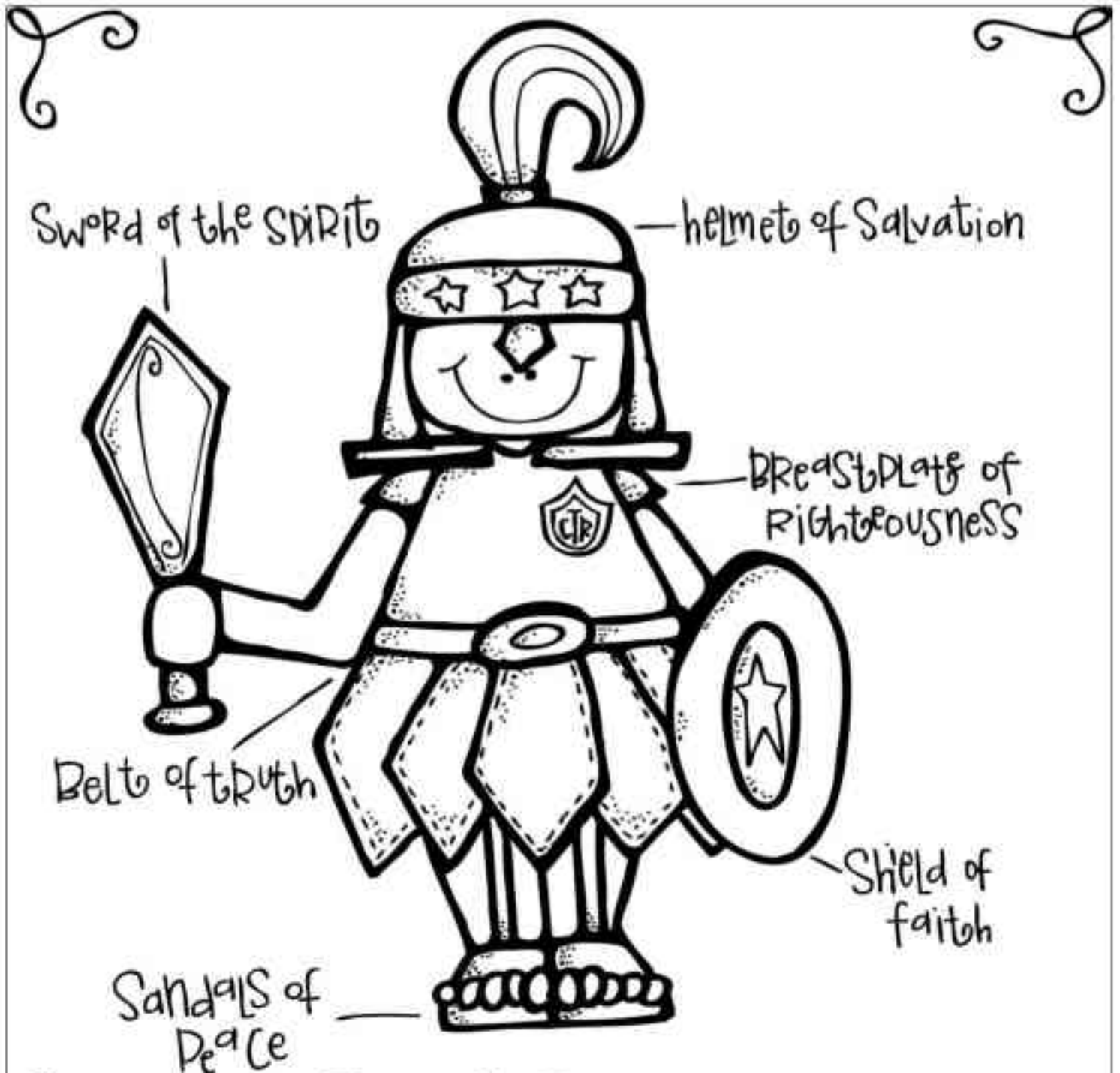
We're looking for gently used
back packs or travel
luggage.

Sister Renee Booker is collecting gently used back packs and travel luggage to be donated to the First Stop homeless shelter and the Child Protective Services Division of the Department of Human Resources. If you would like to make a donation, she would love to have them. Contact Sister Booker at 240-645-8184 to arrange a pick up.

Thank you in advance.



Kids' Corner



Put on the whole armor of God

Put on the Whole Armor of God [Pinterest post] Pinterest. Retrieved September 2020, from <http://pinterest.com>

Put on the Full Armor of God Mystery Puzzle

ARMOR OF GOD

USE THE CODE CHART TO FIND THE MESSAGE BELOW.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	A	E	I	M	Q	U	Y
2	B	F	J	N	R	V	Z
3	C	G	K	O	S	W	
4	D	H	L	P	T	X	

21 12 43 45

34 22

45 25 16 45 42

11 25 34 16 24 41

17 34 16 25

36 11 13 35 45

21 25 12 11 35 45 44 43 11 45 12

34 22

25 13 32 42 45 12 34 16 35 24 12 35 35

13 24

44 43 11 31 12



www.hideandseekministries.com

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The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor



That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9.

INDNJC

ST. JOHN

A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 25 Issue 10

October 2020



ST. JOHN AME
HUNTSVILLE

"Sharing The Word, Serving The People."

We Love You!

With Great Pleasure

THE ST. JOHN AME
CHURCH FAMILY PROUDLY
WELCOMES BACK



Pastor Maurice Wright, II
& FIRST LADY REVEREND JORETHA WRIGHT & FAMILY

Welcome the New Pastor!

2019-2020-A Year in Review

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Servant Pastor Preaching the Word—Serving the People



January 2020



January 2020



February 2020



January 2020



March 2020

March 2020



Welcome the New Pastor! 2019-2020-A Year in Review

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Servant Pastor
Community Engagement and Social Activist



May 2020



August 2020



June 2020



August 14th-16th, 2020



July 2020



Community Engagement Caregivers' Prayer and Respite Ministry Workshop

B. Johnson



Tinisha Glenn, Esq.
Glenn Law Firm, LLC

The St. John AME Church, Caregiver's Prayer and Respite (CPR) Ministry partnered with The Alabama Cooperative Extension to sponsor a workshop for caregivers and others interested in Will and Estate Planning. The workshop was held via ZOOM and welcomed twenty-eight participants. The host for the workshop was Mrs. Donna Gullatte who was the representative for the cooperative extension. The guest speaker for the event was Attorney Tinisha Glenn, founder of Glenn Law Firm, LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

As unpredictable as the times are now, it is imperative that people plan for the unexpected. Now is the time for people to begin "taking care of one's business, and getting their affairs in order." The one assumption everyone operates under is, "I have time." I have time to put my affairs in order. I'm young, I don't need a will. I'm in good health, I don't need to think about having a power of attorney. I have time. The philosopher, Buddha warns, "The problem is, we think we have time." And reality tells us, we don't.

Attorney Glenn introduced a two step process, 1. plan for now and 2. plan for after death. She discussed the documents everyone should have in place for now as well as for later. The documents were; 1. Durable Power of Attorney, 2. Advanced Directive for Health Care which includes a Living Will and lastly, the Last Will and Testament.

The Durable Power of Attorney allows an individual to designate an agent/representative to act on their behalf. The document has a beginning date and the powers are reviewed and approved by the originator for the agent/representative. The Durable Power of Attorney ends upon the death of the originator. The originator has to initiate the document, understand and execute the document. When minor children are involved, if a power of attorney does not exist, guardianship documents must be filed.

Advance Directive for Health Care. Should a person become incapacitated this document will represent their wishes. It is also known as a "Living Will." It specifies how a person wishes to be treated medically. A healthcare proxy is selected by the individual to ensure that the wishes are carried out. Attorney Glenn suggested asking individuals first before assigning them to this position and to have at least two others in mind in the event someone is not willing to serve.

The Last Will and Testament is a legal document to designate where and how one's assets should be distributed upon one's death.

Attorney Glenn covered the three required documents extensively. Other concerns that were discussed included, the probate process; How the Last Will and Testament is processed after a death. She also discussed bank accounts of the deceased and how they could be accessed, the Code of Alabama and how it relates to the line of accession in the event a will does not exist and the cost for developing a will. She gave an approximate range of cost from \$400.00 up to \$1,000.00.

Attorney Glenn's closing remarks were that everyone, regardless of age should, "Make an action plan and get started." If you already have the three documents in place, you should still, "Review, Revisit and Revise your plan every six months."

Attorney Glenn can be contacted for an appointment at;
The Glenn Law Firm, LLC
402 Office Park Dr. Suite 110
Mountain Brook, Alabama 35223
205-637-6115
tmglenn@glennlawfirm.org



AME Proud

Black Owned Business of the Month

81 HOME, GIFT & Glam



Ms. Jana Goggans, Owner
81 Home, Gift & Glam

81 Home, Gift & Glam

Ms. Jana Goggans, Owner and Operator

81 Home, Gift and Glam is located in a 100 year old building at 100 Jefferson St. in downtown Huntsville. 81 Home, Gift and Glam is a high end boutique where "Everything is Glam." Jana always had aspirations of becoming an entrepreneur and had thoughts early on of opening her own salon and boutique while working a day job. She started her boutique in a 6x10 sq. ft. space which eventually led to an 8x10 sq. ft. space. The boutique had its grand opening in 2014.



While the brick and mortar store still exists and is growing remarkably, Jana has ventured out to the world wide web and taken 81 Home, Gift and Glam to an online store. Now, shoppers can shop from home while "sheltering in place." 81 Home, Gift & Glam has something for everyone from babies to young adults, teens, seniors, males and females. From fashion forward attire to accessories for the home. There are items for the home, as well as for personal use; scented soaps, lotions, creams, jewelry, clothes, scarves, purses and the like. There are products for men; ties, socks, the ever trending beard wash and beard oils. A hand-poured line of candles will be launching on November 1st.

The items pictured are just a few of the exceptional offerings at the online boutique. You are encouraged to visit *81 Home, Gift & Glam's* Facebook page for additional merchandise.

81 Home, Gift & Glam
100 Jefferson St. N. Suite 126
Huntsville, AL 35801
www.81homegiftglam.com



Ms. Robin Reeves: New York Life Agent Achievements!



Ms. Robin Reeves,
New York Life, Agent

On June 30, 2020, New York Life Insurance Company recognized Ms. Robin Reeves with the following awards: **Career Summit Qualifier** for achieving various production, educational, and other result driven activity goals, **Career Summit Premier Qualifier** for finishing the year in the number 12 spot out of the top 50 qualifying agents in the country, **Executive Council Award** and **Career Life Producer Award**. These accomplishments were achieved in six months! Currently, Ms. Reeves is the **#1** producer in Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley. She is working diligently toward receiving the **2020 Rookie of the Year Award**! Congratulations Ms. Reeves. Well done! If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment, Ms. Reeves can be reached

at 256-264-4293 or at reeves01@ft.newyorklife.com.

Congregational News

Congratulations!



Brother Justin York

The Northwest Annual Alabama Conference, was held via ZOOM on Wednesday, September 30, 2020. Congratulations to Brother Justin York. Brother York was elected as an Itinerate Deacon of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and recommended for ordination. The ordination service will be conducted during the 9th Episcopal District Planning Meeting on November 6 and 7, 2020 at St. John AME Church, Huntsville, Alabama.



Thank You!

St. John family, thank you for your words of encouragement, prayers, calls and cards during the loss of yet another sibling. Your care and concern meant the world to my family and me.

With a grateful heart,
Sister Rosemary Wells

Thank You!

Thank you St. John family for your sincere expressions of support during the home going of my brother. Your prayers, calls, cards and concern were greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christian Love,
Sister Templea Stanley

Thank You!

St. John Family, thank you for your love and concern during the passing of my father. Kind people, just do kind things and you family, rose to the occasion. The cards, calls, and prayers were a comfort to my family and me.

From a grateful family,
The Waltons, Sam &
Deidre

Thank You!

To the ministerial staff, officers and members of Historic St. John AME Church, thank you family! Thank you for your prayers of healing, calls, cards, flowers, and all expressions of sincere care and concern. Your prayers were felt and greatly appreciated. Your kindnesses will be humbly remembered.

Warmest regards,
Sister Barbara Johnson

Thank You!

St. John family, your prayers, cards, calls and expressions of sympathy were greatly appreciated during the loss of my nephew. Your kindness will be forever be remembered.

In Christian Love,
Col. (Ret.) James & Willie Heyward & Family

Thank You!

St. John family, thank you for your thoughtfulness during the loss of my father-in-law. Your prayers, calls, cards and expressions of sympathy were greatly appreciated.

With a thankful heart,
Sister Renee Booker

Church School Lesson Overview – November 2020

The reviews were written by Brother Kenneth Parham

November 1, 2020

Lesson Title: Loving by Serving

Lesson Scripture: John 1:1-35

Print: Romans John 1:1-5; 34-35

Devotional Songs: #424[], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done for you." John 1:15 (NRSV)

This lesson deals with the importance of the custom of washing of feet, the relationship between servant and master; and what it truly means to love thy neighbor. The setting herein is that Jesus gathered with the disciples prior to the Festival of Passover. Jesus notes that His time is near and to Himself remarks that the devil has devised a plan to use Judas Iscariot to betray Him.

Jesus introduces a new concept or commandment via a customary practice. In this text, Jesus prepares to wash the disciples' feet by removing His outer garment and wrapping a towel around His waist. As He goes from disciple to disciple washing each of their feet and drying them, He comes to Peter who either is insightful or has a problem with what is happening. Being a custom of that time, it was considered normal practice for travelers to remove their sandals once they reached their destination and to have someone to wash their feet prior to indulging in any other activity. It should be noted that the ones performing the washing tasks would be either servants or someone lesser in status. So, Peter is wise to acknowledge that there was something incorrect about the situation. It should have been one of the disciples washing Jesus' feet. Jesus stops Peter and indicates that if he (Peter) only knew, that Jesus was demonstrating how much He loved His disciples and that each disciple should show this same love to each other and towards their neighbor. And, by this act one will know that these disciples are truly followers of Christ.

There is also a subtle message being conveyed by Jesus concerning the deansing act. Jesus responds to Peter's request of having Jesus wash Peter all over by indicating that there would be no need if one has taken a bath already (considering the festival this should have been the case) and that water alone will not dean an evil spirit.

November 8, 2020

Lesson Title: Abiding Love

Lesson Scripture: John 15:4-17

Lesson Print: John 15:4-17

Devotional Songs: #323[], #251[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NRSV)

Can one truly describe the love relationship that believers must show each other? In this lesson, Jesus uses a metaphor in answering the question. He indicates He is the vine and we are the branch. Those who abide in love (the love spirit) abide in Him (Jesus is love). Jesus uses a metaphor to indicate what true love is. He compares himself as a strong fruit vine and believers (His beloved) as branches on the vine. And if they live within His guidance (His commandments), they will produce much fruit. Those who do not are compared to dead branches thrown away, awaiting to be cast into the fire. He indicates that there is not anything that He would not do for His followers if they live within His loving spirit; just as the Father loves and is pleased with Jesus, Jesus loves His followers just as much. To show just how much, Jesus states, "... No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for a friend." This we know through history that He paid the ultimate price for our sins.

November 15, 2020

Lesson Title: Confident Love

Lesson Scripture: 1 John 3:11-24; 2 John 4:11; 2 John 5:8

Lesson Print: 1 John 3:11-24 (NRSV)

Devotional Songs: #221[], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verse: All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the spirit that he has given us. 1 John 3:24

This lesson reminds us that evil has persisted from the beginning of time. Evil was around when God placed Adam in the garden of Eden and herein, points to another example of Cain killing his brother. The lesson text indicates that Cain committed murder because his own deeds were evil and those of Abel were righteous. The apostle John indicates that one should not be amazed that the world hates those who abide in love. He points out that those who abide in love, will not experience eternal death but will have eternal life.

John also indicates that as Jesus laid down His life for others, they should be willing to do the same for one another. He poses the question as to how does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's wealth, sees his brother or sister in need and refuses to help. His answer is to show love not by words but by deeds. And if the works are done from the

(Continued on page 8)

Church School Lesson Overview – November 2020

(Continued from page 7)

heart, believers will have boldness before God and God will grant whatever is asked. Finally, John indicates that while fulfilling the needs or serving one's brothers and sisters, those can stand confident that by serving one another through action they have demonstrated that Jesus' love abides in them and their love abides in Him.

November 22, 2020

Lesson Title: Sharing Love

Lesson Scripture: Acts 4:32-5:11

Lesson Print: Acts 4:32-5:11

Devotional Songs: #364[]; #77[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. Acts 4:32 (NRSV)

This lesson presents the story of Ananias and how he and his wife met God's judgement for being unfaithful. The setting is a community of like believers of heart and soul. Even though they may have owned houses or land, they all claimed nothing and willingly sold property to ensure no one in their community were in need. This is how the community fulfilled God's commandment of being each other's keeper and loving one another.

Upon being visited by Peter and John, the community sold property and placed the proceeds at the feet of Peter. Ananias, being part of this community, likewise sold property and instead of placing all of the proceeds at the feet of Peter, only placed a portion at Peter's feet. Peter immediately called out Ananias and asked about the offering. Ananias acknowledged what he had done. Peter responded by saying how could he have contrived to do such wickedness because he was not holding back from the disciples but from God. And God's judgement was just as swift, Ananias fell down and died. And unbeknownst to the fate of Ananias, Ananias's wife came to visit Peter and Peter asked her about the offering given by her husband. She also admitted that her husband withheld a portion. Peter responded by asking how she and her husband were bold enough to test God, and she also fell dead.

November 29, 2020

Lesson Title: Impartial Love

Lesson Scripture: James 2

Lesson Print: James 2:1-13

Devotional Songs: #25[]; #77[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that He has promised to those who love Him? James 2:5 (NRSV)

In each person there is an envious spirit of discernment. Each person has at times catered to one over another based on an assessment (whether the assessment is based on social status, racial status, economic status or physical attributes). People tend to utilize this spirit when they wish to be part of a particular group or are putting someone down for not meeting the standards of a particular social or economic trait. Apostle James provides an example where two individuals come into one's presence. One individual will be well dressed and the other poorly dressed. The person will say to the well-dressed individual to "sit here" or "may we seat you?" To the poorly dressed individual it will be said, "go stand over there" or "sit at our feet." Apostle James indicates that at that moment they have made a judgement against both individuals.

Apostle James hints that people dismiss the poor and cater to the rich, even though it is the rich who would not hesitate in taking the poor to court. He indicates that God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom.

And finally, Apostle James indicates that if people are partial to one another instead of loving one another, they have broken one of God's commandments. They may think that this sin is less important than one of the major ten commandments but sin is sin and they will be, without mercy, and harshly judged.



Kids' Corner

The True Vine

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.." John 15:5 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 15:1-8

R	P	O	W	M	P	N	S	I	O	N	F	J	X	Z
S	E	O	G	A	Z	Y	M	H	A	P	B	K	G	X
N	S	M	L	D	R	W	O	E	P	P	V	T	P	W
X	C	U	A	Y	R	M	L	X	N	X	S	A	Y	K
B	P	P	L	I	A	C	R	T	N	M	F	R	Z	A
X	K	R	N	N	N	A	I	H	W	O	R	D	S	J
C	S	U	N	L	E	D	A	R	G	J	N	R	K	X
J	J	N	Q	B	A	K	E	O	L	G	E	V	Y	T
B	E	E	P	W	I	G	J	W	O	U	F	Y	I	C
R	B	S	W	N	I	D	Z	N	R	O	E	U	V	E
A	U	Z	N	N	H	T	B	T	Y	G	R	X	N	J
N	R	F	D	P	W	H	H	J	Z	F	N	I	F	H
C	N	S	I	J	F	M	K	E	G	B	V	Y	B	G
H	E	Q	E	R	H	X	G	A	R	D	E	N	E	R
U	D	F	V	A	E	W	R	Z	U	S	S	G	G	E

WORDS
CLEAN
FRUIT

GARDENER
PRUNES
BRANCH

REMAIN
THROWN
FIRE

BEAR
VINE
WITHERS

GLORY
TRUE
BURNED

During the months of October and November
Church School will meet on ZOOM.

Topic: Church School Zoom Meeting

Time: Sundays 9am - 9:45am (Church School)
Mid-day Fellowship, Mon. - Sat. 11:30am

From a computer, tablet, or cell phone

Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09)

[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017348

From a telephone: One tap mobile

+13126266799,462687112# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,462687112# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017348

Young People's Division YPDers



The YPD Pledge

I pledge my willing and untiring service to all efforts of the Young People's and Children's Division to aid the needy and suffering people, regardless of race, color or creed. I further pledge to take the Bible as my guide, to aid my church, and to attend meetings regularly. In all these tasks I seek the Savior's guidance.

St. John AME Church
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President
Young People's Division
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director

Membership Contact Update



Church family: Have you moved? Had a name change? Changed email address providers? Or Changed phone numbers? If so, the church membership administrators would like to know, so they can update the church membership roll and contact information. If there have been changes to your contact information, please send corrections to;

Mrs. Karol Hersey, Administrative Assistant

Email: office@stjohnhuntsville.com

Call: 256-534-3265

St. John AMEN Newsletter

Would you like to change how you receive the St. John AMEN Newsletter from a hardcopy to an email issue? Send changes to the Editor, Ms. Barbara Johnson at bjohnson76aamu@gmail.com.

135th St. John AME Church Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin

Be one of the first members to receive this
beautifully crafted commemorative lapel pin.



2 for \$5.00

Purchase from any

Steward or the St. John church office.
All funds donated to the VISION 2020 Building Fund.



Church School Book Club

October 2020

**Discussion Date: October 17, 2020
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

My Name Is Tani...And I Believe in Miracles, Badani, Sejal, 2020.

November 2020

**Discussion Date: November 21, 2020
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration, Wilkerson, Isabel, 2011.

In this epic, beautifully written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of Black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities in search of a better life. From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. Wilkerson interviewed more than a thousand people, and gained access to previously untapped data and official records, to write this definitive and vividly dramatic account of how these American journeys unfolded, altering our cities, our country, and ourselves.

With stunning detail, Wilkerson tells this story through the lives of three unique individuals: Ida Mae Gladney, who in 1937 left sharecropping and prejudice in Mississippi for Chicago, where she achieved quiet blue-collar success and, in old age, voted for Barack Obama when he ran for an Illinois state senate seat; sharp and quick-tempered George Starling, who in 1945 fled Florida for Harlem, where he endangered his job fighting for civil rights, saw his family fall, and finally found peace in God; and Robert Foster, who left Louisiana in 1953 to pursue medicine, becoming the personal physician to Ray Charles as part of a glitteringly successful career that allowed him to purchase a grand home where he often threw exuberant parties.

The Warmth of Other Suns is a bold, remarkable work, a superb account of an "unrecognized immigration" within our own land. Through the breadth of its narrative, the beauty of the writing, the depth of its research, and the fullness of the people and lives portrayed herein, this book is destined to become a classic. — Amazon

Young Readers' Café



**The Steam Chasers
The Boundless
Blackprint
By
Dr. Dorese A. Jennings**

Shar, Terrence, Ebony, Akiya, Marcus, and Chase are back and this time they are headed on a class trip to Washington, DC! The friends are eager to begin their adventure delving into the history of the United States and how new "history" continues to be created today.

What better way to learn than by exploring the architectural landscapes that make up cities, examining statues that commemorate the heroes of the past, and experiencing the museums that lay bare the unique, complicated, and freshings story of Black Americans from the formation of the country to the present. In going beyond the facades that delight the senses, the STEAM Chasers uncover a mystery that changes everything about the way they see the world.

Who said history was boring? Terrence leads the way as the STEAM Chasers race against time to reveal the Blackprint of the United States. Discovering how African American architects, designers, builders, civil engineers, and surveyors helped to create what we know as America will be fun, but that doesn't mean this victory won't come at a price. Clocks, rocks, and cornerstones, Washington, DC will never be the same!

—Amazon

Age Level: 8-12 Grade Level: 4-6

This title is book 3 of 3 by Dr. Jennings. This title will be released in February 2021. The other two books are available now on Amazon in print and on Kindle.

*Celebrating the Life of
The Reverend Horace J. Fitchard, Jr.*

The Reverend Horace J. Fitchard, Jr.'s Final Report

The Reverend Horace J. Fitchard, Jr. transitioned from labor to reward on Saturday, September 26, 2020. The homegoing celebration was held at his home church, St. John AME. The Reverend Dr. Karnie Smith, his boyhood friend and brother in the ministry read the New Testament Scripture. His brother Mr. Earl Fitchard gave a very moving tribute. The sermonic music was provided by a duet by Pastor Fitchard's brother, Mr. Ervin and Mrs. Courtney Fitchard. The service was closed with an inspirational prayer by his niece, Ms. Sharon Fitchard-Daniels.

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II preached the eulogy for the homegoing service for the Reverend Horace J. Fitchard, Jr. using the analogy of the final report given at the AME Annual Conference. Scripture reference was 2 Timothy 4:7-8, a very familiar scripture given by Paul, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race."

The scripture is asking three questions, Did you fight a good fight? Did you keep the faith? Did you finish the race? Well, on September 26, 2020, Pastor Fitchard answered the call to give his final report. Three questions are asked of every pastor. Number of Conversions—1. Number of Accessions—1. Report something about your ministry. His report consisted of his commitment as a great family man, life-coach to young men before the word was a trend, a mentor to many and a beloved pastor to seven congregations through out the district. When the final assignments were given out, Pastor Fitchard had finished his race to which he had been called.

Pastor Fitchard was a son of St. John AME Church. He grew up with his siblings and friends at 229 Church Street. He was the grandson of "Mother Louise Watts, known affectionately as "Mama Lulu" and the son of Mrs. Sally Fitchard.

Reverend Fitchard confessed hope in Christ at an early age and joined St. John A.M.E. Church. He was a member of the youth choir, and served on both the youth and senior usher boards. He taught Sunday School and was the president of the Young People's Division (YPD). He accepted his call to ministry under the Reverend Dr. Homer L. McCall.

He attended Calvary Hill Elementary and Middle School, later graduating from Lee High School in 1974. He attended Alabama A&M University majoring in Social Work. While working at the Boys Club, Horace created the Toastmaster's Club which introduced and taught young people the skills of public speaking. He mentored many young men who have gone on to pursue successful careers. Horace impacted the lives of numerous young people through his interactions with them as a coach for the freshman basketball team at Lee High School and the Boys Club of Huntsville. He was also an active member of the Pride of Lincoln #817 Masonic Temple.

The Reverend Horace J. Fitchard, Jr. was preceded in death by his parents, Horace Fitchard, Sr. and Sally Mae Fitchard, his wife Millie Fitchard and brothers, Harry, Larry, Jimmy and Ray Anthony Fitchard.

He leaves to cherish his memories, his daughter, Metha Michelle Petty and grandsons, Delanol Petty and Horace J. Fitchard, III of Huntsville, Alabama. His great granddaughter, Cavani Deanae Fletcher of Huntsville, Alabama; His sons, Santana and Travis Petty also of Huntsville; sisters Dorothy Fitchard O'Quin, Huntsville and Doris Espy of Chattanooga, Tennessee; brothers, Ervin (Courtney) Fitchard, Earl (Deetra) Fitchard, Tony (Sorina) Fitchard, Jonathan Fitchard all of Huntsville, Alabama; Horace (Annette) of Rossville, Georgia. Loving memories will also be cherished by a host of uncles, aunts, god brothers, god-children, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. His life was a blessing to many. To God be the glory.



The Reverend Horace J. Fitchard, Jr.

Announcements



St. John AME Church Worship Service Live Streaming

Until worship returns to the sanctuary, the 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms.

- Church website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com
Click on "View Livestream"
- St. John Face Book Page: [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)
- **Youtube** at St. John AME Huntsville or
- Vimeo at St. John AME

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study
Wednesday 12 noon and 6:00 p.m.

St. John Face Book Live Stream
Visit at [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using
Givelify, Paypal, CashApp@5STJOHNHSV or sending your offering to the church via U.S. Post Office.

Sending via U.S. Post Office; Complete the form below, cut along the dotted line and submit in an envelope with your check.



Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

229 Church Street NW • Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Reverend Maurice Wright, II Pastor

*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?
I will pay my vows unto the Lord. (Psalms 116:12, 14a)*

Date _____ ☐ Visitor ☐ Member
☐ Member, check box if change of address
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____ ☐ Verified

➦ Check each box that applies

☐ Tithes	Amount _____
☐ Offering	Amount _____
☐ Benevolence	Amount _____
☐ Sunday School	Amount _____
☐ Soup Kitchen	Amount _____
☐ Daniel Payne	Amount _____
☐ Building Project	Amount _____
☐ Holiday Food Box	Amount _____
☐ Other	Amount _____
TOTAL	Amount _____

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	9	10	11  12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	12 9th District Planning Meeting Daniel Payne Plaza	13	14
15 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	16	17 Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	18 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	19	20	21 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
22 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship Pastor's Aid Board Bake Sale 	23	24 Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	25 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	26	27	28 10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting
29 9:00 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship Hour of Power	30 Official Bd. Meeting 6:00 p.m.					

Highlighting Our Youth



Kelson J. Hill

I recently celebrated my 12th birthday. I am a 6th grader at Hampton Cove Middle School. This semester, I am attending Huntsville Virtual Academy. My favorite subject is Math. My least favorite subject is English. Although I didn't want to be in band, I am surprisingly enjoying it. It is the only class that I physically attend. I am learning to play the Alto Saxophone. The best part of virtual learning is not having to go to the building all day. Worst part of virtual learning are the technical challenges and not seeing my friends. When not in school or doing homework, I like playing video games, my favorite one right now is Minecraft. To stay active I play two-square with my mom and walk with my dad. During the pandemic, I've enjoyed spending a lot more time with my dad since he's not traveling as much. Kelson is the

son of Mr. & Mrs. Marcus & Angela Hill. Kelson has a sister, Martine.

Absentee Ballot



Myth: Absentee ballots are counted last.

Truth: Absentee ballots will begin being counted at 7:00am on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Track Your Absentee Ballot



Track your Ballot at

[Myinfo.alabamavotes.gov](https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov)



VETERANS DAY

11
NOV

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

St. John AME Church Military Ministry

The St. John Military Ministry was established in 2013 by Col. (Ret.) Felicia Carter and the Reverend (Ret.) Robert B. Hereford, a Veteran, under the pastoral leadership of the Reverend Dr. Patrick Clayborn. The ministry received additional approval from the Reverend Maurice Wright, II upon his arrival in 2016.

Mission Statement: To provide resources, and partnerships based on the belief that faith makes a difference in the lives of those who have answered the call to serve their nation and live with the special conditions and stresses of military life, whether on the front lines or on the home front.

Purpose: The Military Ministry teams with the Pastor, church leadership, chaplains, and other ministries to provide resources that current, former military members, and their families can access during tough times.



Top L-R: Mr. Wesley Daniels, Mrs. Angelia Daniels, the Reverend Roberta McCoy, Mr. Clifton Miller, Mrs. Glenda Sconiers, Mr. Sam Walton, Mr. Hodges Washington, Mr. Bill Williams, the Reverend Charles Glover, Bottom L-R: Dr. Arthur Walker, Col. (Ret.) James Heyward, the Reverend Dr. James Johnson, Presiding Elder (Ret.) Oliver Allen, LTC. (Ret.) Felicia Carter, President of The Military Ministry, the Reverend (Ret.) Robert Hereford, Mr. Carver Myhand, the late Mr. Aaron Freeman and Mr. Sylvester Daniels.

VETERANS DAY



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



Top L-R: Dr. Arthur Walker, Mr. Lars Avery, Mr. Robert Wilson, Mr. Ray Sconiers, Mr. David Norwood, the Reverend (Ret.) Derwood Wilson, Mr. Rickey McGraw.
Bottom L-R: Mr. Darwin Washington, Mr. Carl Lewis, Col. (Ret.) James Heyward, the Reverend Charles Glover, Mr. Cleophus Haygood, Mrs. Katrisa Norwood, and Mr. Jonathan Scott.



St. John AME Church
Veterans and Family Members with the Reverend Maurice Wright, II

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(256) 534-3265

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E-mail: office@stjohnhuntsville.com
Website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com

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The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor

Upcoming Events

October 13-November 2, 2020..... *Voter Vespers via St. John's Face Book Live Page 6:00pm EST., nightly*
October 26, 2020..... *Church Conference (Virtual)*
November 6-7, 2020..... *9th Episcopal District Planning Meeting at St. John AME, Huntsville, Alabama*
December 3, 2020..... *1st Quarterly Conference (Virtual)*



INDNJC

ST. JOHN

A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 25 Issue 11

November 2020

Happy Thanksgiving!

Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good; His love endures forever.
- Psalm 118:1



St. John AME Church Promotes Voting through Nightly Voter Vesper Services

B. Johnson



Vesper as defined by Vocablary.com is an evening song. It also refers to evening prayers, and then it is usually plural as vespers. Whether it is a church service or a jazz band at sunset, if it is in the evening it is a vesper. And so it was for St. John AME Church and the virtual community when it journeyed into a Voter Vesper prior to the November 3, 2020 election. The Reverend Maurice Wright, II Servant Pastor of St. John AME Church organized and called the community to a Voter Vesper. For two straight weeks at 6:00 pm. and sometimes 7:00 pm, individuals from across the nation were invited to discuss the critical issue of voting.

Invited interviewees included community organizers, church leaders, bishops, elected officials, persons from the judicial system, college and university presidents. Pastor Wright served as the facilitator for the discussion asking five pertinent questions of each guest or panel. The questions were:

1. Why do you vote?
2. In regard to low voter turn-out, what can you say to someone who says, their vote does not matter and they don't plan to vote without "vote shaming" them?
3. Voter suppression and voter intimidation are real. What are your feelings on both?
4. Young people feel that their voices are not being heard and they are not being represented. How do we change the demographics of elected officials to represent younger candidates?
5. Many young millennials mobilized during the summer months in the Black Lives Matter Movement. How can that momentum be moved from the streets to the polls?
6. Lastly, what can you say to motivate a person who is on the fence to get out and vote?



When asked, "Why do you vote?" The responses varied from, expectations of parents and grandparents once they became of age to register and vote, to the 15th Amendment guaranteeing the right to vote, to an individual's voice is heard through their vote, to recalling the names, memories and legacies of persons who had given their very lives for the right to vote. Once becoming eligible every individual had a very valid reason that they voted and had voted for many years.

Everyone was aware of the problem of "low voter turn-out" in previous elections and how this could possibly affect the outcome of this presidential election. All the interviewees stressed how particularly important this election would be and how they were committed to doing any and everything to motivate and persuade people to get out and vote.

The constant news cycle has continued to inform the public of absentee drop boxes being closed, the lack of sufficient poll workers, some polling places were closed, the threat of persons from one party showing up in militia-like gear in aim to intimidate and scare voters. Voter suppression and intimidation are real. All the guests agreed that to motivate and encourage others to vote, they would have to remind people of the importance of their vote and having their voice heard. If the vote were not that important why would people or parties be working so fiercely to keep the vote from being submitted.

Pastor Wright felt it important to include the voices of young adults in the discussion on voting. It has been seen in past elections where many young people just did not vote. The young people on the panel spoke emphatically on the issue stating that sometimes they felt that their vote was being taken for granted without any representation at the "table." While their

(Continued on page 3)

St. John AME Church Promotes Voting through Nightly Voter Vesper Services

B. Johnson



(Continued from page 2)

votes are being courted and solicited, many times they are never included in the decisions being made. They recognized that the "wait your turn mentality" turns them off. The elders on the panel and online acknowledged this fact and all were in agreement that young people should be brought into the decision-making process, because it will be the millennials who will carry the torch forward. The elders also agreed that young people should have a seat at the table and if one is not saved for them, then young people should figuratively "bring their own."

Just as millennials used technology to mobilize marches in the street, organizations should harness that talent, those skills, to engage young people. Young people are adept in the use of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tic Tok and other informational platforms to rally the supporters and disseminate information. This is how young people can transform and move the message of voter engagement forward.



The campaign slogans and the final responses to motivate everyone to vote were very dear. Because our very lives depend on it; because people died for the right to vote; to honor John Lewis; because George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin and so many others will not have that chance to vote-We vote for them.



Pastor Wright, summed the Voter Vesper up emphatically on Sunday, November 1, 2020, two days before the election, in his sermon, "It's Time to Vote." He persuasively stated, "We vote because of the three R perspective; We have a Right to vote. It is our Responsibility to vote and lastly, we have a Reason to vote."



Voter Vespers 10/25/2020

Male and Youth Panel
L-R Top
Reverend Samuel Green, Jr.
Pastor Wright
Guy Ginn
Reverend Wright, Sr.
Bobby Adkins
Marcus Hill
Collin Adkins

St John AME Civic Action Supporting Removal of Confederate Monument

Brother Bobby Adkins II

As a challenging 2020 moves closer to its sunset and leaves on the trees turn from summer green to all colors of the fall, community activism remains a central theme for members of the St. John AME Church family.

Throughout 2020, St. John AME members have actively participated in helping to shape the narrative surrounding the removal of the Confederate Monument from outside the County Courthouse in Huntsville, AL. After a summer of heightened protests, the 115-year-old Confederate monument, which had been the subject of inspired and passionate objections to its existence, was removed from outside the county courthouse at 1:00 am in the morning on October 23, 2020. All praises be to God for providing the strength to so many who logged endless hours on courthouse grounds seeking the monument's removal.

"I'm speechless, literally speechless. It's an amazing time for our culture and for people of all colors. I'm excited that I'm able to watch this event happen during this time," said St. John's First Lady, the Reverend Joretha Wright.



Protestors gather outside the Madison County Courthouse in Huntsville, AL

As protests nationally gained momentum following the murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police, St. John members were engaged locally in support of both Black Lives Matter initiatives and as part of continued protests supporting removal of legacy confederate monuments and symbols from local, state, and federal government properties.

Madison County Commissioner Jes Henry Malone, in a statement to AP News, said the county finally acted after a state commission created in 2017 to protect historic monuments failed to respond in a timely way to the commission's request to remove the memorial. Malone stated "We know that government can be bureaucratic at times and often slower than what we would prefer, but we had no desire to violate our oaths of office to appease public sentiment," Malone stated.



Confederate statue being removed at 1:00 am in the morning of October 23, 2020.

For St. John members, the battle was well worth the time, effort, and resources. In an interview with local Huntsville television station WAAY-TV, the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, said, "It's just a good time. People are relaxed, they're cheering. It's just a nice feeling with everything that has been going on and all the tension and division. It's just nice that something like this, that's caused so much chaos, is actually bringing people together."

The monument has since been relocated to the Maple Hill Cemetery which houses the remains of Confederate soldiers.



Community Engagement

Barbara Johnson



Dr. William Hooper Council
1849-1909

Dedication of the William Hooper Council Memorial Park

The William Hooper Council High School Alumni Association honored its founder, Dr. William Hooper Council on October 26, with the dedication of a community park. The site of the park in downtown Huntsville was one of several sites of the high school. Founded in 1867 in the basement of Lakeside Methodist Episcopal Church on Jefferson Street, the school was moved to a frame building on this site in 1892. The first diplomas were granted in 1912. A brick structure replaced the original building in 1927. The school was built for the purpose of educating African American students living in Huntsville. This was well before the integration of the schools in 1960. Council High School closed due to integration, graduating its last class in 1966. The school eventually came under the authority of the Huntsville City School System. It was used for several years as a center for special needs students and then closed permanently around 1985. The school soon became uninhabitable and was scheduled for demolition. The association wanted to maintain the building as a museum, but the damage was too extensive. They worked diligently with city officials to plan the park, to honor the founder of the school, Dr. William Hooper Council and leave a lasting legacy for the community.

The dedication of the William Hooper Council Memorial Park solidified Dr. Council's impact on the Huntsville community. Dr. Council was the founder of William Hooper Council High School in 1867, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in 1875, and St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1885. A historical marker stands on each site as a testament to Dr. Council's tenacity and fortitude in making a difference in the lives of African Americans in the Huntsville-Madison County community and beyond.



L. to R. Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., President of Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University, First Lady, Mrs. Abbiegail Hugine, Mr. William Bell, St. John member and Project Manager with the City of Huntsville, Ms. Barbara Johnson, Editor, St. John AMEN and the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Servant Pastor, of Historical St. John AME Church.



Ribbon Cutting for the
William Hooper Council Memorial Park

L. to R. The Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., Councilman (ret.) Richard Showers, The Honorable Mayor, Tommy Battle, Mrs. Brenda Chunn, President, William Hooper Council Alumni Association, the Reverend Randy Kelly, Pastor, Lakeside United Methodist Church and the Honorable Devyn Keith, President, Huntsville City Council.

AME Proud

Black Owned Business of the Month



Mr. Karl Gullatte, Owner

Gullatte Construction Company, Inc.

Gullatte's Roofing was first established in 1996 based on supply and demand of quality services within a growing community of Huntsville and Madison County. In the last 24 years the company has grown to Gullatte's Construction Inc. serving the north Alabama and southern Tennessee areas, providing quality services in roofing, painting, siding, seamless gutters, drywall installation or repairs, carpentry, room additions and new construction for residential or commercial industries. Gullatte Construction Company is committed to quality and professional service.



Some of GCI's notable customers over the last 24 years include Huntsville Housing Authority where GCI completed over 842,000 square feet of roofing installation for Butler Terrace, Searcy Homes, Sparkman Homes, Lincoln Park and L. R. Patton Apartment complexes within six months duration. The company continued to serve the community in giving back of professional construction services partnering with the City of Huntsville Deferred Maintenance Home Repair Program for several years. GCI continues to be a community service partner with Progressive Union MB Church and Grady Madison A.M.E Church, providing roofing and interior construction repairs on multiple projects. Some of GCI's proudest moments have been working side by side with fellow St. John AME Church members on community service projects. GCI has been honored to serve countless members as their chosen contractor for a verity of construction contracts. And to that, we say thank you!



Gullatte Construction at work

Mr. Karl Gullatte is married to Mrs. Donna Jones Gullatte and they are the proud parents of Mariah and Josiah Gullatte. Mr. Gullatte and his family are members of St. John AME Church.

Congratulations Dr. Darrell Ezell !



Dr. Darrell Ezell, Ph. D.

The HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology announced that Darrell Ezell, Ph. D., will join the Institute as the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Dr. Ezell is a Huntsville native and brings more than ten years of experience designing and implementing intercultural communication programs and diversity and inclusion strategies to HudsonAlpha. He previously served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean at Claremont Lincoln University and as a Visiting Professor in International Studies at Louisiana State University.

Dr. Ezell earned his PhD in Religion and International Affairs from The University of Birmingham in Birmingham, England, his MA in Systematic Theology and Ethics from Union Theological Seminary and BA in Psychology from Alabama A&M University. As Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Ezell will support the Institute's efforts to better engage with the public, diversify the workforce and create a more inclusive workplace that meets the needs of employees and communities.

Dr. Ezell is a life-long member of St. John AME Church and is the son of Mrs. Mattie Ezell.

Highlighting Our Youth



Way to Go Michael Clark!

Congratulations to Mr. Michael Clark for winning a \$500.00 scholarship during the Annual@FamiliesForCancer PreventionUnited Virtual Conference.

Michael is a Senior at Madison Academy High School. He enjoys playing basketball and video games. Computer Science courses are his favorite subjects. His future aspiration is to study Computer Science with a concentration in Video Game Design. Michael will be pursuing that goal in the fall of 2021 when he attends Jacksonville State University, where he has already been accepted.

Michael is a member of St. John AME Church where he is active in the YPD and serves faithfully on the Junior Usher Board.

Michaels' parents are Mr. & Mrs. Michael Clark.

AME Proud



Dr. Tonya Perry,
Coalition for Justice
Through Civic
Engagement
(CJCE)

Congratulations Dr. Tonya Perry

The Coalition for Justice through Civic Engagement (CJCE) was birthed to fill the need for a central coordinating mechanism through which faith communities, Greek-Letter, civic and service organizations, social clubs, businesses, institutions of higher learning and other entities central to the Black community of Greater Huntsville, could pool their efforts in realizing meaningful social change.

CJCE worked with the Civic Engagement Team of Alabama A&M University, to ensure that 75-80% of eligible students, not only registered to vote, but also voted absentee before or on Election Day.

Congratulations Dr. Perry on your successful community initiative to increase the voter turn-out of AAMU students.

AME Proud



Congratulations Col. (Ret.) James O. Heyward!

Col. (Ret.) James O. Heyward was the focus of *Spotlight on Our Elders* in the November 6, 2020 issue of *The Valley Weekly*. This is a reprint of the article which appeared in the issue.

A native of Sumter, S.C., James O. Heyward, Sr., was a career Army officer who retired from active service in 1983 with the rank of Colonel. Col. (Ret.) Heyward served in key command and staff positions in the United States and overseas, amassing a diverse background of extensive experience in planning, management and operations to include training, logistics, resource management, counseling and investigative work. His last military assignment was Professor of Military Science at Alabama A&M University (AAMU). Since his retirement, he held the position of Director of Admissions at AAMU from 1984 to 1997. In this position, he

was responsible for directing and coordinating the University's recruitment effort and administering the academic scholarship program. He formulated, recommended and implemented recruitment and admissions policies—all crucial to a stable enrollment of quality students. During his work in higher education, he held key positions in the Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers on the state and national levels, and was affiliated with other professional educators organizations. Some of Col. (Ret.) Heyward's significant past military assignments were Commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Field Element, Fort Monroe, Virginia; and Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Military Community, Baumholder, Germany, to name a few. Heyward holds a B.S. degree from South Carolina State University and an M.A. from Shippensburg State University. He and his wife (Willie Mae Thompson-Heyward) have two sons.

The Service of Ordination and The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Service of Ordination and The Sacrament of Holy Communion



The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright,
Presiding Prelate, 9th Episcopal District, AMEC

The Service of Ordination and The Sacrament of Holy Communion was held on Saturday, November 7, 2020, during the Ninth Episcopal District's Planning Meeting. The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop of the 9th Episcopal District was in charge of the service. As the seven candidates knelt at the altar, Bishop Seawright proceeded with the Order of Ordination. The Reverend Maurice Wright, II stood in support of Brother Justin York as he made his commitment to serve.



Brother Justin York



Brother Justin York, receiving his official robe from the
Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Servant Pastor
St. John A.M.E Church.



Brother Justin York



Robing of The Reverend Justin York.

The Service of Ordination and The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Robing and ordination
completed for
The Reverend Justin York
by
The Reverend Maurice Wright, II.



The Ordination Service is completed for the Reverend Justin York. He is congratulated by (L-R) the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Presiding Elder Bruce W. Hunter of the South Birmingham-Huntsville-Bessemer District and The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate, 9th Episcopal District, AMEC.

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15



The Service of Ordination and The Sacrament of Holy Communion may be re-played on the 9th District African Methodist Episcopal Face Book Page, November 7, 2020. The ordination service begins at time marker 1:30.

Congregational News



Pastor Wright and Brother James Jamar.

Happy 90th Birthday, Mr. James Jamar!

Brother James Jamar celebrated his 90th birthday on Sunday, November 15, 2020. A Huntsville native, Mr. Jamar has been a long time member of St. John AME Church. He enthusiastically recalled that he joined St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1945. He has been a member of the church for 75 years! He is the oldest male member of the church. Brother Jamar sang in the choir and was a prolific musician, having mastered the clarinet and the saxophone.

The worship service was a service of praise in song and music. Pastor Wright knowing Brother Jamar's love of music, ministered to Brother Jamar and the congregation in hymns of praise. Brother Jamar was moved by the thoughtfulness of Pastor Wright's tribute on his 90th birthday.



Deaconess Charlie Brooks

Happy 80th Birthday, Deaconess Charlie Brooks!

Deaconess Charlie Brooks celebrated her 80th birthday with style and fanfare. Mr. & Mrs. Everette and Angie Brooks, Deaconess Brooks' son and daughter-in-law, treated her to an unexpected "Drive-by" Birthday Bash! As she sat on her "throne" in her drive-way, she was greeted with car horns, honking and cheers from all those who drove by. She was celebrated by her St. John church members, sorority members, neighbors, members from the 50-Plus Auxiliary and many other friends and acquaintances.

Deaconess Brooks has been a member of St. John for over fifty years. She has served faithfully through many organizations and entities of the church. She has been a choir member, a Stewardess, worked with the Food Ministry, is a member of the Agnes Cooper Women's Missionary

Society, a member of the Caregivers, Pray and Respite Ministry, is on the AMEN Newsletter staff and attends Church School every Sunday. She stays busy and continues to serve with compassion in the church and in the community. Happy Birthday, Deaconess Brooks!

Thank You

The family of the late, Reverend Horace J. Fitchard, Jr. would like to express our sincere gratitude to the St. John Family for all the expressions of sympathy shown during the passing of our beloved brother. The prayers, calls, text messages and cards were greatly appreciated and were a comfort to us.

With a grateful heart,
Brother Earl Fitchard and
Sister Dorothy Fitchard O'Quin



Welcome!



Little Brodie Miguel Love
Born October 11, 2020
to

Mr. & Mrs. Ricardo & Taylor Love

Proud Grandparents are
Mr. & Mrs. Randy & Rickshell Love

Church School Lesson Overview – November 2020

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer and Dr. Thalia Love-Brown

December 6, 2020

Lesson Title: Called to be Heir

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 1:1-17; Hebrews 1

Print: Matthew 1:1-6, 16-17

Devotional Songs: #221[], #272[], and #118[]

Key Verse: "In these last days [God] had spoken to the people about his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe" (Hebrews 1:2).

In this lesson we see that Matthew shared Jesus' human heritage with his readers. The king promised to bless all nations. God's faithfulness is the major theme and places Jesus as the final step in the fulfillment of His old and new covenant promises. This is in contrast to Hebrews, where the author focused on Jesus' divine heritage. Jesus was honored by the Father when He finished his earthly ministry.

December 13, 2020

Lesson Title: Called to be Immanuel

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Print: Matthew 1:18-25

Devotional Songs: #106[], #251[], and #112[]

Key Verse: "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20b-21).

The focus in this lesson is on Joseph of Nazareth, yes that is right, Joseph. He stood out in two ways: first, Joseph was a descendant of King David and a member of Israel's royal lineage. David was thought to be the ancestor of the coming messiah who would reign over Israel on David's restored throne. Second, Joseph's social standing in Nazareth was nothing special. As an adult, Jesus was often referred to as being "the carpenter's son".

December 20, 2020

Lesson Title: Called to Worship

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 2:7-15

Print: Matthew 2:1-2, 7-15

Devotional Songs: #115[], #116[], and #120[]

Key Verse: "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11).

In this lesson, the wise men worshiped the newborn King. The wise men traveled from faraway lands, signifying Jesus' ability to transcend distances and distractions that divide us. Jesus narrows the gaps and brings healing to the discord caused by cultural, racial, and religious differences. Believers must guard against the temptation to let those around them create mistrust rather than unity.

December 27, 2020

Lesson Title: Revealed Love

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 3

Print: Matthew 3:1-12

Devotional Songs: #121[], #77[], and #122[]

Key Verse: "This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him'" (Matthew 3:3).

Important projects require adequate preparation. John the Baptist is the voice in the wilderness calling for God's people to prepare themselves—come from their spiritual wildernesses—by repenting of their sins. In order to bring the reconciliation mentioned in last week's lesson, John the Baptist reminded the people that repentance and forgiveness allow believers to live out their ministries and, when lived out, can encourage others to seek a life of righteousness. The desire to live right is in preparation for a future, and is motivated by a love for God in return for His unconditional love. Believers follow Christ because of this love.



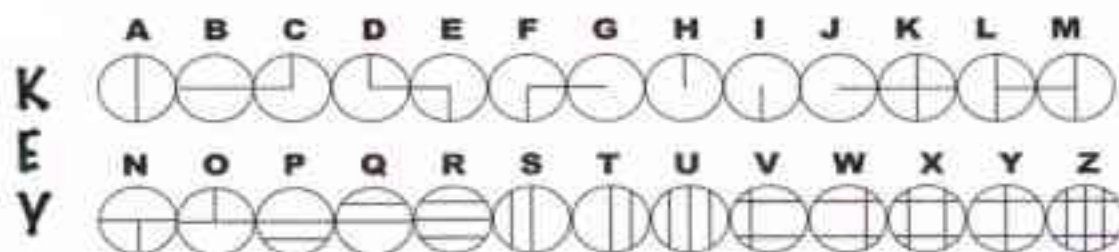
Kids' Corner

BibleWise

The Wise Men

The wise men's journey Matthew 3:7-11 (ASV)

Use the key to complete the verses below about the three wise men.



7. Then Herod privily called the Wise-men, and learned of them exactly what time the

appeared. 8. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search out exactly concerning the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word, that I also may

come and him. 9. And they, having heard the king, went their

way; and lo, the star, which they saw in the went before them, till it came and

stood over where the young child was. 10. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great .

11. And they came into the house and saw the young child with

Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshipped him; and opening their treasures they offered unto him gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12. And being warned of

in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

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The Wise Men [Pinterest post] Pinterest. Retrieved November 2020, from <http://pinterest.com>

Interfaith Pet Care and Chaplaincy, LLC

The Reverend Joretha Wright, M.Div., Pet Pastor

Intersecting Spiritual Humanity and Animals



The Pet Pastor

"My amazing Doberman has helped me focus on the peaceful energy that has always surrounded me; pets bring peace, pets are peace."

As a compassionate ordained faith leader, I am passionate about interfaith chaplaincy respectfully serving pets and their families from diverse spiritual beliefs and practices. Having lost animals myself I truly understand how valuable it has been for me to gain a special emotional and spiritual awareness about beings that reside in the space given to all breathing life. I also recognized the inter-connectedness pain brings when challenged with making end of life decisions for the love of our pets. My journey has concretely embedded the truism that nothing in this life is superior above the magnitude of creation. We share the world with the loving atmosphere and the physicality of plant and animal. And, because we are not alone, I have challenged myself to love more of myself through the intentional awareness that our pets are more than fetch soldiers; they are loving, emotional beings.

Ultimately, I have resolved that the elevation of relational spirituality that intersects humanity with animals has increased my wisdom and advocacy for the support, care and intentional fostering of gentle service to the whole animal and the care takers that oversee their safety and wellness.

"I am your Pet Pastor, and it is my call to serve humanity, stretch my belief system as a respecter of life; serve with heart, love and soul."

SERVICES OFFERED

- bereavement support individual and Group: on-line, telephone or in person
- Reiki spiritual healing and meditation
- new pet screening and selection
- naming and blessing ceremonies
- public speaking and community animal advocacy
- pet wellness coaching

CHAPLAIN SERVICES

- officiating/coordinating pet funerals and memorial services
- euthanasia and end of life prayer and support

OUTREACH

LOVE LEASH.....Collect and provide collars and leashes for homeless persons with pets.

PAW DREAMS is a program that will support homeless families living in shelters with pets so that shelters can allow families to keep their pets with them as they seek to become self-sufficient....

MORE HEART: financial grants to support disabled persons of color seeking to gain a service pet.

MEMORIAL BRACELET KUMBUKU....kumbuku means to remember. The memorial bracelets designed with your pet in mind. Each bracelet is hand designed by a youth working with Interfaith Pet Care and Chaplaincy. Donations support outreach programming. Please submit your bracelet request and donation to rita@interfaithpet.com

If interested in supporting the cause, contact us: Rev. Rita Wright, M.Div., Pet Pastor email: rita@interfaithpet.com
p: (256) 269-3343

During the months of November and December
Church School will meet on ZOOM.

Topic: Church School Zoom Meeting

Time: Sundays 8:45am - 9:45am (Church School)
Mid-day Fellowship, Mon. - Sat. 11:30am

From a computer, tablet, or cell phone

Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09)

[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cW1iR3NXZz09)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017 348

From a telephone: One tap mobile

+13126266799,462687112# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,462687112# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112

Password: 017 348

Young People's Division YPDerS



"Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

Mother Sunbeams (2-6 years old)

Allen Stars (7-12 years old)

Youth Auxiliary (13-17 years old)

Young Adults (18-26 years old)

St. John AME Church

Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society

Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President

Young People's Division

Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director

Membership Contact Update



Church family: Have you moved?
Had a name change? Changed email
address providers? Or Changed
phone numbers? If so, the church
membership administrators would
like to know, so they can update the

church membership roll and contact information. If there
have been changes to your contact information, please
send corrections to;

Mrs. Karol Hersey, Administrative Assistant

Email: office@stjohnhuntsville.com

Call: 256-534-3265

St. John AMEN Newsletter

Would you like to change how you receive the St. John
AMEN Newsletter from a hardcopy to an email issue? Send
changes to the Editor, Ms. Barbara Johnson at
bjohnson76aamu@gmail.com.

135th St. John AME Church Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin

Be one of the first members to receive this
beautifully crafted commemorative lapel pin.



2 for \$5.00

Purchase from any

Steward or the St. John church office.

All funds donated to the VISION 2020 Building Fund.



Church School Book Club

November 2020

Discussion Date: November 21, 2020

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration, Wilkerson, Isabel, 2011.

December 2020

Discussion Date: December 19, 2020

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Forgotten Boxes, Willis, Becki, 2016.

Named sole heir to her aunt's estate, Charity Gannon arrives in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, hoping to find a link to her past. She is not looking for lost treasures; she is searching for a connection to the aunt she barely knew.

What she finds is a thirty-something-year-old mystery and questions with no answers. A sad, secluded cottage, all but hidden amid the vines. A man's suit of clothes, tainted with dried blood and a bullet hole. Four forgotten boxes, stuffed into a large bag and buried in the far corners of the shed.

These are not just any boxes. These are unopened, undelivered boxes, left behind by the now-defunct Kingdom Parcel. All four boxes are marked March 14, 1984... the very day her uncle, president and driver for the delivery service, was said to have committed suicide. Four forgotten boxes, whose owners might still be out there, waiting for a delivery that never arrived.

The undelivered boxes haunt Charity, tugging at her conscience. Hadn't someone noticed them missing? Had not anyone wondered about the failed delivery? Thinking it might be fun to surprise the recipients after all these years, Charity sets out to deliver the packages to their rightful owners.

The story behind one box is delightful. Another is heart-breaking. —Amazon

Young Readers' Café



Miss Joy McKenzie Wright

Great Things Happen
When Girls
Dream

A collaboration led by
Regina Sunshine
Robinson
Featuring

Joy McKenzie Wright



Great Things Happen When Girls Dream is a collection of short stories written by girls ages 6 years to 16 years old. Miss Joy McKenzie Wright has launched her writing career with a short story of her own entitled, "I'm a Dream Girl." Miss Wright explores the nature of dreams and especially those of young girls and how dreams can effect the outcome of their destiny. She also

speculates on how her everyday day dreaming hopefully will impact her future endeavors.

"I'm a Dream Girl" is just one of many fascinating short stories in Book 2 of The Awesome Girl Book Series.

Books may be purchased directly from Miss Wright by visiting her webpage; www.sharejoygivehugs.com

"If you don't see the book you want on the shelf, write it."

Beverly Cleary, An American Writer
author of The Ramona Series



Announcements



St. John AME Church Worship Service Live Streaming

Until worship returns to the sanctuary, the 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms.

- Church website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com
Click on "View Livestream"
- St. John Face Book Page: [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)
- **Youtube** at St. John AME Huntsville or
- Vimeo at St. John AME

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study
6:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

St. John Face Book Live Stream
Visit at [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using
Givelify, Paypal, CashApp@5STJOHNHSV or sending your offering to the church via U.S. Post Office.

Sending via U.S. Post Office; Complete the form below, cut along the dotted line and submit in an envelope with your check.



Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

229 Church Street NW • Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Reverend Maurice Wright, II Pastor

*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?
I will pay my vows unto the Lord. (Psalms 116:12, 14a)*

Date _____ ☐ Visitor ☐ Member
☐ Member, check box if change of address
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____ ☐ Verified

➤ Check each box that applies

☐ Tithes	Amount _____
☐ Offering	Amount _____
☐ Benevolence	Amount _____
☐ Sunday School	Amount _____
☐ Soup Kitchen	Amount _____
☐ Daniel Payne	Amount _____
☐ Building Project	Amount _____
☐ Holiday Food Box	Amount _____
☐ Other	Amount _____
TOTAL	Amount _____

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:45 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline 2nd Sunday of Advent	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 8:45 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Soup Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m. Bible Study			10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
20 8:45 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship 4th Sunday of Advent	21	22	23	24	25	26
			6:00 p.m. Bible Study	 5th Day of Advent		
27 8:45 a.m. Church School ZOOM 10:00 a.m. Worship	28	29	30	31		
						



Advent is the season of preparing for the coming of the Messiah that focuses on the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. St. John members have written devotionals on each of these themes. Please prayerfully meditate on these as you prepare to celebrate the coming of the Messiah. The writers are Dr. Thalia Love (Hope), Brother Justin York (Peace), Sister Karmen Lattimore (Joy), and Sister Lillie Rivers (Love).

HOPE

That first advent, the shepherds and lowly peasants waited expectantly, as did the king on the throne. There was a hope and an expectation. Modern culture sometimes sees this hope as an unrealistic optimism; however, this HOPE is a hope in the promises of God.

Our HOPE is believing in and waiting for while fully trusting and expecting fulfillment of God's promises. This hope is in the promise of help from on high. This hope is the promise of power from on high. This hope is in the promise of life eternal. Our hope in Jesus is not just a hope in the baby in the manger; it is hope in the plan for redemption set forth to anchor us to our faith in the promises of the Father.

Sometimes the very act of waiting is difficult for us. We are disappointed because our timing is not observed. We are anxious because we see the obstacles as too great. We feel weak during the battles. That is the beauty of the Christmas story. Behind all of the glitter and tinsel, shopping, present giving, and hustle and bustle, a baby was born to bring hope for help, power and victory to a world that had lost its way.

Isaiah encourages his people with the good news that the Lord God will heal the brokenhearted and proclaim freedom to the captives. The glory of the Lord will be revealed and "he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace..." (Isaiah 61:1-3 and 9:2-7) This good news is the foundation of our faith. We embrace the birth from a virgin, a life without sin, a death that atones, and a resurrection that redeems. Thus, our hope is in all that His life promises.

While we love the preparation for and celebration of the birth of our Savior, let us never forget that he is coming again, and He has told us to be prepared. Our HOPE in this advent season is not just in the present or the immediate future. Our hope is in the Advent—coming—arrival—of the Messiah. Our hope is in the promise that He will come again. We must never lose sight of this promise. Let our lives reflect a confident expectation of this promise as we walk in the hope of this promise...

PEACE

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests..."

Luke 2:8-14 NIV

The shepherds witnessed the angels praising God prior to the birth of Jesus. They were afraid while in their presence. After receiving the news of Jesus' pending birth, they wanted to witness this momentous occasion and tell the story. The message from the angels: "God grants peace to those He favors." What does this mean to you? We do not have to be afraid when the unexpected happens in our lives. We do not have to wonder why. We do not have to wait in anticipation for the outcome as if God will not protect, provide, or prepare. We have seen Him do it way too often to doubt. When we focus on the issues of our world and allow them to consume our peace, we leave no room for the joy God's love brings to our lives. We do not have to fear, wonder, or anticipate. We know we have the victory through Jesus. Rest in that peace. Trust God's promises; they never fail. During this advent season—this season of expectancy—expect the peace of God to comfort, strengthen, and keep you.

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7 NIV

JOY

"That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!'" (Luke 1:8-11)

The third candle of Advent represents Joy! During this time of the year we are supposed to be happy, cheerful, and celebrate the coming of the Messiah. As Christians it is perceived that we all have great joy in spite of all the things that life brings. Joy can be a bit blind to the real world. Some are experiencing the fight of their lives, others may be dealing with sadness and/or despair. But even as much as those things plague us, we cannot escape the laughter, the song, the dance and the joys of life. It is in those very dark moments where joy is born. Just like the birth of Jesus, it comes unexpected and it is found while holding on to the faith and trust we have in the Lord. It is said that "Joy is the affirmation of the things that are truer than any trouble and any affliction," but joy is the affirmation that Love prevails over all.

During this holiday season cast all your cares away and focus on the reason for the season. In Luke 1:8-11 it tells of the night that Jesus was born. People all around were afraid, they were unsure of what was to come but an angel from on high came to reassure them to not be afraid, not to worry, do not despair! He was there to spread the good news to the people that the Messiah, our Savior has been born! So rejoice, shout, dance and be filled with JOY for our Lord has come. Whatever we face, joy is the truest thing and this is not the end. May your joy overflow this holiday season.

LOVE

Love is more than a deep affection for or attachment or devotion to someone, or the expression of this. Love comes from God; so true love brings you closer to God. 1 John 4:7-8 (NLT) says, "dear friend, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God for God is love."

True love makes great sacrifices. It does extraordinary things. It goes out of its comfort zone or sacrifices things important to it just to show its love. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 (KJV)) True love is not based on words or hypocritical deeds, but it is based on truthful actions. 1 John 3:18 (HCSB) says; "Little children, we must not love with words or speech, but with truth and action." Love loves even those who do not love it. True love does good things even to those who hate it. Jesus said, "But, I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." (Luke 6:27-28 (KJV))

Love will stand the test of time. "Love is patient, love is kind, love does not envy, is not boastful, is not conceited, does not act improperly, is not selfish, is not provoked, and does not keep a record of wrong. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things; Love never ends." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

The greatest command in the Law, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39 (HCSB).

During this Advent Season spread the love of God everywhere. Do not forget the greatest was the gift of Love (Jesus Christ).

Reprinted from the December 2018 issue of the St. John AMEN.

Kids' Corner

The Advent Wreath



The New St. John AME Church!



Look for additional renderings in the January 2021 issue of The St. John AMEN.

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(256) 534-3265

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E-mail: office@stjohnhuntsville.com
Website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com

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The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor



That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

INDNJC

ST. JOHN A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 25 Issue 12

December 2020



Merry Christmas

Dear Family,

I greet you in the joy of the Advent Season. Ages ago, the angel of the Lord told Joseph, "She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The message of salvation that the angel proclaimed to Joseph is the same message of salvation that we must proclaim today. Jesus has come to save the people. What a glorious truth to proclaim this Christmas season!

The year, 2020 has been a challenging one as we all have tried to make sense of recent events. The Global Pandemic, a tumultuous election cycle, and economic hardships are just a few of our concerns. Nevertheless, even in the midst of so much unrest and turmoil, we can still look to the promise of Jesus. His promise continues to reassure us that we are never alone. As a church family we have had to adjust to sharing many moments via our digital platforms which is a blessing. The virtual platforms allow us to stay connected while we are apart. I encourage you to remain diligent in your safety practices by remaining home unless you must go out. If that is the case, please wear your facial masks and most of all keep a reasonable distance from others. In consultation with the officers, we feel it is necessary that we continue Worship, Bible Study and all meetings virtually as the church office is operating with very limited in-person interaction.

There is much excitement about what God is doing at St. John. We remain committed to the call to serve our congregation and the people of Huntsville. For many years this congregation has been a light of hope for this city and community and as we move forward, it is my prayer that our light will continue to shine even brighter. Thank you for your personal commitment and faithfulness in your giving as we ensure the work of ministry continues to be our focus.

Finally, know that Reverend Rita and I are extremely appreciative for your thoughts, cards and most of all your prayers for our family. We are privileged to serve such a wonderful congregation and we look forward with great anticipation to the opportunities to go even higher in our service. You remain in our constant prayers.

Peace & Blessings,

Pastor Wright



“LIVING THROUGH LOSS:
A GRIEF RECOVERY SERIES

Grief
SUPPORT

Sunday, January 10, 2021

5:30-6:30 pm

Presenter:

Reverend Chante' Elmore Knotts



St. John AME Church
229 Church Street—Huntsville, AL 35801

This three-part lesson series will examine how faith can help us navigate through the experience of loss and grief. With God, we can deal with it, work through it and grow to a place of peace and strength.

Healing Hearts

A Ministry to Support Those Experiencing Loss

Dr. Jeanette Jones



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4:

Mission Statement

The mission of the *Healing Hearts Ministry* is to provide faith-based education, counseling and spiritual support to members of St. John AME and their loved ones who are chronically or terminally ill, grieving and/or experiencing a personal loss such as divorce.

Overview

In March of 2019, a meeting of members of the church was held with Supervisor Sherita Moon Seawright to discuss the idea of initiating a ministry that would be responsive to a broad spectrum of grief and loss and the accompanying critical needs experienced by members of St. John AME and their loved ones. Thus, the idea of *The Healing Hearts* ministry was introduced.

Healing Hearts is a ministry that is responsive to the congregation's need for spiritual support related to loss in its various forms—to include anticipated events such as the transition of a terminally ill family member or unanticipated events such as the sudden death of a family member via an auto accident or heart attack. In addition to ministering to the bereaved, *Healing Hearts* is also designed to offer spiritual support to congregants who are grieving a wide range of personal losses—such as divorce, financial devastation, major career transitions and significant changes in health status.

In executing its mission, *Healing Hearts* will conduct activities associated with a dual focus:

(1) Acute Grief Support and (2) Prolonged Grief Support.

Acute Grief Support

Upon being alerted of a death, *Healing Hearts* dispatches a care team to meet with the bereaved, provide spiritual and psychosocial support and assess needs. Related acute support activities include home visits, hospital visits, prayer, scriptural support and guidance and support regarding final arrangements.

(Continued on page 4)

Healing Hearts

A Ministry to Support Those Experiencing Loss

Dr. Jeanette Jones

(Continued from page 3)

Prolonged Grief Support

In addition to the provision of Acute Grief Support, *Healing Hearts* also offers ongoing support to congregants struggling to cope with intermediate and long-term reactions to loss. Prolonged grief support is provided through a monthly support group and quarterly seminars related to various topics related to grief and loss.

Through offering a monthly psychoeducational support group and quarterly seminars facilitated by experts in the arena of grief and loss, participants will have the opportunity to:

- (1) Share their personal loss experiences in the safety of a loving and accepting environment;
- (2) Connect with others who are experiencing grief and loss;
- (3) Access a mutually supportive network of caring;
- (4) Learn about the meaning of loss and the various forms it takes;
- (5) Learn about common grief reactions;
- (6) Identify the need for supplemental help in the grieving process;
- (7) Access referrals to external resources to support in the healing process; and
- (8) Implement strategies for coping, healing and restoration



Ministry Volunteers

The *Healing Hearts Ministry* welcomes volunteers who are willing to contribute their time, energy and spiritual gifts of encouragement, understanding and compassion to support those who are coping with loss in its various forms. The *Healing Hearts Ministry* is designed to respond to the fundamental needs of those who are grieving. Members of the *Healing Hearts Ministry* will perform a number of supportive roles, to include visiting and praying with those who are grieving; providing a listening ear and Biblically-based insight regarding the promise of healing and restoration; and conveying hope, encouragement and joy.

If you are interested in supporting the Healing Hearts Ministry, please see Steward Jeanette Jones, Chair, Co-Chairs Dr. Tonya Perry, Trustee Bridget Floyd and Steward Pamela Whitehead, or Steward Abbiegail Hugine, Chair of Congregational Care. Other members of the coordinating committee (listed alphabetically): Steward Bobby Adkins, Steward Samuel Walton, or Pastor Maurice Wright.



Healing Hearts Ministry Members

L. to R. The Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Servant Pastor, Dr. Jeanette Jones, Chairperson, the Reverend Sherita Moon Seawright, Mrs. Abbiegail Hugine, Chair of Congregational Care, Trustee, Dr. Bridget Floyd, the Reverend Justin York, Steward Pamela Whitehead, and Co-Chair, Dr. Tonya Perry.

AME Proud!

Black Owned Business of the Month

Claire's Little World Childcare Program



Mrs. Claire Philadelphia, Owner
Claire's Little World Childcare



Mrs. Claire Philadelphia has been in business as a private childcare provider for 28 years. Children from the age of 6 weeks to 7 years old have called Claire's Little World home for years. While at Claire's, children enjoy a nutritious breakfast, lunch and evening meal, and developmentally appropriate play. Mrs. Philadelphia uses the Early Start Curriculum to teach reading and math skills. Besides academics, Mrs. Claire stresses good manners, proper etiquette, morals for life, independence, and self-confidence. Parents speak highly of the program offered by Claire's Little World. Her daycare is in high demand by those who know her standards of excellence. When asked how many children she's nurtured and cared for, she replies, "I have cared for hundreds of kids over 28 years. And not only have I cared for one child in a family, but also their siblings. At one point I had cared for seven generations in one family." Her motto has always been to treat the children in her



care as if they were her own. Her home is their home away from home. Mrs. Philadelphia is married to Mr. McLean Philadelphia. Both are long time members of St. John AME Church.

Congratulations!



Mrs. Rickshel Love,
Owner, Love's Daycare

The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) recently awarded the country's top honor for high-quality family child care programs to Rickshel Love operator of Love's Daycare. NAFCC accreditation is a rigorous quality improvement system that uses a set of over 300 standards to recognize high-quality child care programs operating in the residence of the child care professional. In Alabama, almost 11 percent of

licensed family child care programs have achieved this recognition; considerably higher than the two percent nationwide average.

"I chose to become re-accredited as an ongoing commitment to professionalism and my children's success. My motto is "a daycare of love and learning" and I pride myself on just that.

Mrs. Rickshel Love is married to Mr. Randy Love. Both have been longtime members of St. John AME Church, Huntsville.



Mrs. Tammy Johnson,
Director, Visions of
Learning Academy

Childcare is My Ministry

Mrs. Tammy Johnson is the supervising director of Visions of Learning Academy. It is a year-round childcare facility serving children 6 weeks to 12 years old. The academy is licensed to serve up to 108 children. Students 6 weeks to 18 months are engaged daily in educational learning activities using the Frog Street Curriculum. The Tera West Program is the curriculum

used with students 18 months to 5 years old. Children are provided a hardy breakfast, a well-balanced lunch and two nutritious snacks. Developmental play, instruction in early technology skills, music, art, and appropriate socialization skills are encouraged. Mrs. Johnson is charged with supervision of a staff of seven employees and the day to day management of the academy.

Mrs. Johnson is married to Mr. Ronald Johnson. Both are members of St. John AME Church.

Congregational News



The Honorable Judge
(Ret.)
Martha Lynn Sherrod

Lawyers of Distinction Welcomes Martha Lynn Sherrod, Retired District Judge



The Lawyers of Distinction is pleased to announce that Retired District Judge Martha Lynn Sherrod of Huntsville, Alabama has been certified as a distinguished member of our organization. The Lawyers of Distinction is recognized as the fastest growing community of distinguished lawyers in the United States. Members are accepted based upon objective evaluation of an attorney's qualifications, license, reputation, experience, and disciplinary history.

Congratulations!



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
and
The Reverend Derwood Wilson,
a.k.a Grand Pa



Reverend Wilson receiving
his gifts.

Happy, Happy Birthday, Reverend Derwood "Grand Pa" Wilson!

What could be more special, than having the entire congregation turn out for a "drive-by" birthday celebration on your birthday! It was the Reverend Derwood Wilson's birthday and even during a pandemic the St. John Family was not going to allow him to spend the day alone. Everyone came abiding by the CDC protocols of wearing a mask, gloves, and social distancing to share in this special occasion.

The calls went out and the celebration was on! Cars lined up at the designated time, honking, waving and shouting Happy Birthday and Reverend Wilson stood amazed at the number of well-wishers.



St. John Family,
Thank you for your prayers
and words of condolence
during our time of bereave-
ment.
God Bless,
The Davidson Family

Thank You!

St. John Family,
you are always there and that
never goes un-noticed. I am grate-
ful for your words of comfort,
prayers, texts, calls and acts of
kindness during the loss of my
biological father, Mr. Jimmie
McKinley.

He was loved by so many and I will
cherish our memories, his kind
soft spirit and his love for others.

Thanks so much,
Dr. Monica Dillihunt



Highlighting Our Youth

Lydia Owens

In August, Huntsville City Schools released the 2020 Reset Plan which included a hybrid learning environment consisting of both Traditional & Virtual Learning Options. This month, the St. John AMEN features two Huntsville City School students and their thoughts on the Reset Plan for 2020 – 2021 school year.



Martínee Hill

Martínee Hill is an 11th grader at Huntsville High School. She enjoys Science.

Martínee prefers virtual learning to traditional, because of the freedom. She also enjoys the flexibility of working assignments ahead of time instead of having to wait. In her spare time, she enjoys playing the "Sims", watching Netflix, drawing, and baking.

Martínee has put her talents to use at St. John. She has worked with the media ministry, served on the Jr. Usher Board and currently represents the youth of the church as a member of the St. John Building Committee for the new church.

Martínee is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Marcus and Angela Hill. She has a brother, Kelson.



Blake Johnson

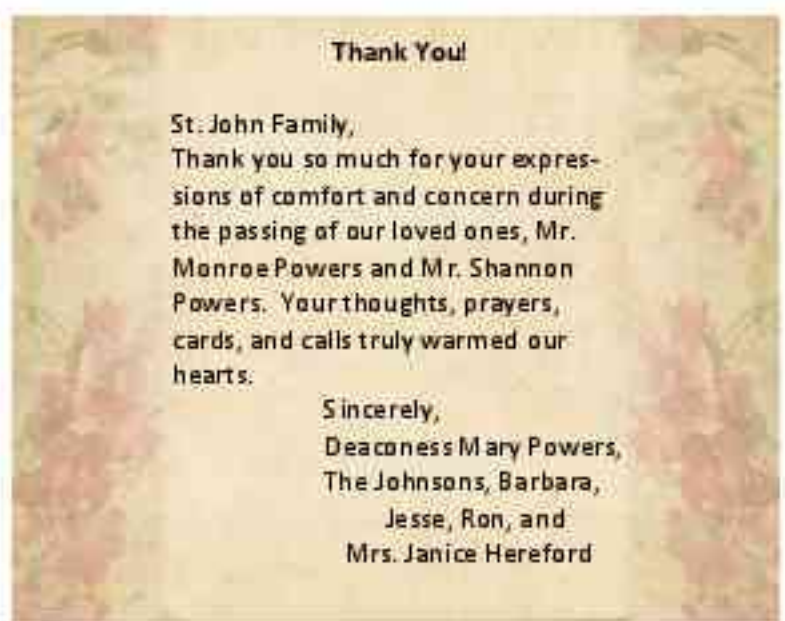
Blake Johnson is an 8th grader at the Academy for Science and Foreign Language (ASFL). He enjoys History and Science. When not studying or completing homework assignments, a game or two of video games is always a welcomed distraction.

Blake is not a fan of virtual school. He finds it to be challenging at times. Blake feels that talking to the teachers virtually and having to maintain honor roll has been stressful and has caused anxiety at times. Blake looks forward to returning to traditional learning in January.

Blake has been a life-long member of St. John AME Church. He is a member of the YPD, and serves faithfully as a Jr. Usher.

Blake is the son of Ms. Pamela Little and the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Carver Myhand. Little Ace Carter Johnson is Blake's brother.

More Thank you cards.



Church School Lesson Overview – January 2021

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer and Dr. Thalia Love-Brown.

January 3, 2021

Lesson Title: Called to Proclaim

Lesson Scripture: Luke 4

Print: Luke 4:14-22

Devotional Songs: #364[], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good-news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19).

A crystal picture of the work that Jesus did and the power that is in His name is given in this lesson. Jesus was called to set free those who are oppressed, those who are despised, and those who are in need and to serve. The author points out that His life-changing work should continue in today's time.

January 10, 2021

Lesson Title: Called to Significance

Lesson Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

Print: Luke 5:1-11

Devotional Songs: #221[], #251[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people'" (Luke 5:10b).

This lesson reveals how Jesus called the fishermen, who quickly left their nets, to follow him. They were to fish for souls instead of fish.

Large crowds went to hear John the Baptist. However, Jesus' ministry was much greater and the word quickly spread as Jesus casted out evil spirits and healed the people of diseases. Because of the very large crowds, Jesus needed a place from which to preach and made use of Peter's boat and taught from the sea.

January 17, 2021

Lesson Title: Called to Heal

Lesson Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Print: Mark 2:1-12

Devotional Songs: #77[], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven', or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'?" (Matthew 2:11).

In this lesson the word spreads that Jesus performed miraculous healing. As long as Jesus walked the earth, people knew that instant healing was possible. Crowds came from far and wide in hope of personal healing or in hope of a loved one being cured.

Today four men showed just how far folks will go in helping someone who wants healing.

January 24, 2021

Lesson Title: Called as the Intercessor

Lesson Scripture: John 17:14-24

Print: John 17:14-24

Devotional Songs: #97[], #321[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word" (John 17:20).

As Jesus' time on earth nears its end, He calls on His disciples to pray. He prays for the disciples who will face an evil world. He prays for their protection. He prays for their sanctification as they are set apart to spread His message. Finally, Jesus prays that they remain united in mission. When the disciples are sanctified to carry out His work, they, like Him, stand in the gap for others, bringing everyone to the Father as one in love. Jesus intercedes for His disciples and for believers.

January 31, 2021

Lesson Title: Prophesying Daughters

Lesson Scripture: Luke 2:36-38, Acts 1:12-14, 2:16-21, 21:8-9

Print: Luke 2:36-38, Acts 2:16-21; 21:8-9

Devotional Songs: #361[]; #Alleluia[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:17).

This lesson emphasizes that God's call is not limited by gender. Women in ministry still face discrimination. However, the important role of women is seen in this lesson. A woman, the prophet Anna, proclaimed Jesus to be the Messiah. Anna's desire was to see the Messiah, after much prayer and fasting. God granted her the opportunity to see Him. All people have a purpose in life. The lesson provides examples of women who have responded to God's call. Believers must be sure that they affirm the call of women in their lives as they live out their purposes.

Fishing for People

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Matthew 4:19 (NLT)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 4:18-22 (NLT).



M	D	A	E	W	B	C	W	P	E	T	E	R	G	F
J	L	M	S	L	A	R	P	A	G	N	E	T	S	F
U	O	K	L	U	W	T	R	E	L	F	I	S	H	K
C	Y	J	T	O	P	K	J	B	O	K	B	C	Y	I
X	O	H	L	R	G	K	T	R	G	P	I	O	C	A
X	W	L	E	S	C	H	L	O	A	N	L	N	A	S
Z	O	T	E	B	A	H	B	T	L	M	W	E	G	T
F	A	M	U	W	T	I	O	H	I	B	L	N	T	Q
W	A	B	E	H	I	N	D	E	L	Q	M	K	J	S
J	T	H	J	O	H	N	B	R	E	Z	Z	Q	Y	L
J	S	Z	M	D	I	V	E	S	E	W	L	E	J	I
P	E	O	A	N	D	R	E	W	X	W	C	J	W	V
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N	C	F	S	S	C	B	W	B	U	W	E	F	Y	G

BROTHERS
BOAT
ANDREW
WALKING

JAMES
PETER
LIVING
PEOPLE

NETS
WATER
JESUS
JOHN

COME
FOLLOW
SITTING
SHORE

GALILEE
BEHIND
FISH
LEAVING

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Fishing for People [Pinterest post] Pinterest. Retrieved December 2020, from <http://pinterest.com>

During the months of December and January
Church School will meet on ZOOM.

Topic: Church School Zoom Meeting
Time: Sundays 8:45am - 9:45am (Church School)
Mid-day Fellowship, Mon - Sat 11:30am

From a computer, tablet, or cell phone
Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZu09)
[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZu09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZu09)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112
Password: 017348

From a telephone: One tap mobile
+13126266799,462687112# US (Chicago)
+19292056099,462687112# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 462 687 112
Password: 017348

135th St. John AME Church Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin

Be one of the first members to receive this
beautifully crafted commemorative lapel pin.



2 for \$5.00

Purchase from any
Steward or the St. John Church office.
All funds donated to the VISION 2020 Building Fund.

Young People's Division



COVID-19 Safety Campaign

The Northwest District Conference YPD will
launch a *Be Safe* initiative to promote the
CDC recommended safety protocols as it
relates to the Coronavirus.

The Safety Campaign is opened to all YPDers in the Northwest
Conference.

Below are the rules for participating in the *Be Safe* Campaign:

- YPDers are invited to participate in the *Be Safe* Campaign by creating a social media video or flyer encouraging everyone to follow the CDC guidelines for mitigating the spread of the Coronavirus.
- The flyer must be a single page that promotes following the CDC guidelines. Images used on the flyer must be appropriate for all ages. No images of an individual may be used without permission.
- YPDers may create TikTok videos between 15-30 seconds that promote CDC protocols. All persons featured in the videos must grant permission. These videos may be used on other social media sites including, but not limited to, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat.
- Videos and flyers must include the tag line: "This message is sponsored by the Northwest Conference YPD Department."
- All videos and flyers must be approved by the appropriate leaders before posting. The Campaign will officially launch on December 15, 2020.

For additional information contact Mrs. Deidre Walton, YPD
Director at deetersonny@yahoo.com.

St. John AME Church
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President
Young People's Division
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director



Church School Book Club

December 2020 **Discussion Date: December 19, 2020**
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Forgotten Bones, Willis, Becki, 2016

January 2021 **Discussion Date: January 16, 2021**
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Nine Perfect Strangers, Moriarty, Liane, 2019.

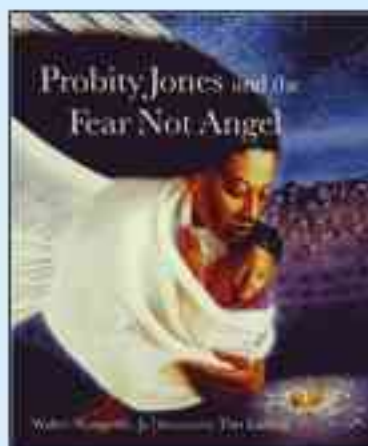
Nine people gather at a remote health resort. Some are here to lose weight, some are here to get a reboot on life, some are here for reasons they can't even admit to themselves. Amidst all of the luxury and pampering, the mindfulness and meditation, they know these ten days might involve some real work. But none of them could imagine just how challenging the next ten days are going to be.

Frances Welty, the formerly best-selling romantic novelist, arrives at Tranquillum House nursing a bad back, a broken heart, and an exquisitely painful paper cut. She is immediately intrigued by her fellow guests. Most of them do not look to be in need of a health resort at all. But the person that intrigues her most is the strange and charismatic owner/director of Tranquillum House. Could this person really have the answers Frances did not even know she was seeking? Should Frances put aside her doubts and immerse herself in everything Tranquillum House has to offer – or should she run while she still can?

It is not long before every guest at Tranquillum House is asking exactly the same question.

— Amazon

Young Readers' Café



Probity Jones and the Fear Not Angel

By

Walter Wangerin, Jr.

Tim Ladwig, Illustrator

It was Christmas Eve. Probity's family was going to church for the Christmas pageant. Probity herself was to be the Fear Not

Angel, the best part she ever had in her life. But Probity Jones was sick.

She could hear her family laughing outside as they walked away to church. She gazed through the window at the lonely moon, perfectly round, perfectly white. And she felt miserable.

Knock! Knock! Someone was knocking on their third-floor window. Probity caught her breath. Outside was a beautiful person dressed all in white, bright as the moon, and tall as the night. She opened the window on the tips of her fingers: Come, Probity Jones. It's time to go.

And so begins a breathtaking flight up to the pathways of the moon, across a sea as deep as dreaming and down, down to a Christmas pageant beyond imagining. And Probity is there, hovering above strangely familiar shepherds, joining the Fear Not Angel's great glad tidings. This is a story that will enchant the entire family and bring warmth, joy, and new meaning to every Christmas season.

— Amazon

Announcements



Worship Service Live Streaming

Until worship returns to the sanctuary, the 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms.

- Church website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com
Click on "View Livestream"
- St. John Face Book Page: [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)
- [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8) at St. John AME Huntsville or
- Vimeo at St. John AME

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study
6:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

St. John Face Book Live Stream
Visit at [stjohnamehsv](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnamehsv)



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using
Givelify, Paypal, CashApp@STJOHNHSV or sending your offering to the church via U.S. Post Office.

Sending via U.S. Post Office; Complete the form below, cut along the dotted line and submit in an envelope
with your check.



Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

229 Church Street NW • Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Reverend Maurice Wright, II Pastor

*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?
I will pay my vows unto the Lord. (Psalms 116:12, 14a)*

Date _____ ☐ Visitor ☐ Member
☐ Member, check box if change of address
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____ ☐ Verified

➤ Check each box that applies Amount
☐ Tithes _____
☐ Offering _____
☐ Benevolence _____
☐ Sunday School _____
☐ Soup Kitchen _____
☐ Daniel Payne _____
☐ Building Project _____
☐ Holiday Food Box _____
☐ Other _____
TOTAL _____

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	9:30 a.m. Fifty Plus Meeting 5:00 p.m. History Makers Ministry 6:00 p.m. CPR Ministry		6:00 p.m. Bible Study			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship			6:00 p.m. Bible Study			10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	6:00 p.m. Lay Meeting	11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	6:00 p.m. Bible Study			10:00 a.m. WHS Meeting
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	6:00 p.m. Board Meeting	11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	6:00 p.m. Bible Study			
31 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship						

St. John AME Church
229 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(256) 534-3265

Return Service Requested

E-mail: office@stjohnhuntsville.com
Website: www.stjohnhuntsville.com

The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop
The Reverend Sherita Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Bruce W. Hunter, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Maurice Wright II, Servant Pastor

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Important Dates to Remember

December 24, 2020	Virtual Candle Light Service via Face Book Live, 6:00 p.m.
December 26, 2020	Kwanzaa Begins
December 31, 2020	Virtual Watch Night Service via Face Book Live, 10:00 p.m.



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*From the
St. John
AME
Newsletter
Staff!*