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Prayer For The New Year

Heavenly Father, we thank You
for the year that has passed and
the many blessings You have
showered us in time.

We beg your pardon in our
many failings and trespasses
and we pray that the coming
year be a more fruitful one.

We earnestly pray for the gift of
the Holy Spirit and we call upon
our Lord Jesus Christ for His
intercessions, His guidance and
His light to shine our path.

Read the full prayer @ christianstt.com

Christmas Spirit at St. John AME

B. Johnson

There was no doubt that this Christmas would be like none other. The sanctuary has been closed since March 17, 2020 to full worship services. Everything now has been conducted virtually. So, how was the Christmas season going to be celebrated during a pandemic? December 25th, the birth of our Lord and Savior was going to come none the less and St. John chose to celebrate according to the CDC guidelines and precautions. Those that attended the different activities, masked up, social distanced and took advantage of the sanitizing stations. The mission was to celebrate the coming of the Lord into the world, continue providing service to those in need and meeting the needs of the community. Here are just a few of the memories of Christmas Spirit being shared during a pandemic.



Christmas Tree Lighting on the grounds of the church.



The call went out requesting gifts for kids in the community and St. John met the need. Thanks to the generosity and spirit of giving, many children, of all ages received gifts.



Showing appreciation to First Responders and medical personnel. A need was observed by Pastor Wright and the request went out to meet the need. The congregation once again, GAVE! Pastor Wright, the Reverend Derwood Wilson and the Reverend Joretha Wright delivered gifts of water, food, and refreshments to the morning shift at Crestwood Hospital's ER. These are some of the "Masked Angels" that helped sort, wrap, label and load the gifts.

Christmas Spirit at St. John AME

B. Johnson



Pastor Wright and the Reverend Joretha Wright blessed the congregation and the children of St. John with a virtual story time by the fireplace. The featured story was, "The Square Root of Possible: A Jingle Jangle Story"



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

The picture on the left shows the St. John sanctuary all aglow in 2019 during the Candle Light Service. This year, Pastor Wright conducted the service as each family celebrated the coming of the light into the world at their homes. The Adkins' family, Bobby, Kay and Samantha lit their candles as the song, "Jesus the Light of the World" was sung virtually.



Watch Night Service 2020

Watch Night Service was observed at St. John on Thursday, December 31, 2020 at 10:30 p.m. Pastor Wright preached from Genesis 45: 20, "Also regard not your possessions for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours." Sermon titled, "Take Only What You Need."

Replay of this Watch Night Service is available on Maurice Wright's Facebook Live page.

Community Engagement

Dedication of the Dr. William Hooper Council Statue

B. Johnson



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Pastor and Ms. Mariah Gullatte, member of Historic St. John AME Church.

The second phase of the William Hooper Council Memorial Park was dedicated on a cold, blustery day in December. The statue of the amazing educator and visionary, Dr. William Hooper Council, had arrived and been installed. City officials, other dignitaries, and the sculptor were in attendance. The event was hosted by the William Hooper Council Alumni Association members, and Chairperson, Mrs. Brenda Chunn. All had gathered to unveil and commemorate the statue.

Pastor Wright and members of St. John AME Church were present to witness the unveiling of the church's founder, Dr. Council. Ms. Mariah Gullatte had been chosen to speak as a youth representative for the church. Ms. Gullatte spoke of her early experiences at St. John and having heard annually of Dr. Council's accomplishments. She also spoke of young people her age, being the beneficiaries of Dr. Council's legacy of educating one's self, building strong moral character through faith and Dr. Council's aspiration for striving for excellence.

The park solidified Dr. Council's impressive life in the Huntsville community. He is known for having established William Hooper Council High School, in 1829, developing Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University in 1875 and founding St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1885. Historical markers stand on each site bearing witness to each of these outstanding accomplishments.

The event was closed with prayer by the Reverend Maurice Wright, II Pastor of Historic St. John AME Church.



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II Pastor of Historic St. John AME Church with Mr. William Hampton, Dr. William Hooper Council impersonator.



St. John AME Church Members

L-R. William Bell, Jr., Pastor Wright, Mariah Gullatte, Rose Bell, Barbara Johnson, Josiah Gullatte, Donna Gullatte, Karl Gullatte and Yvonne Barbour.

Community Engagement Prison Ministry Outreach at St. John AME Church

Bobby J. Adkins II

The Saint John AME Prison Ministry, partnering with the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) and Caregivers Ministry, provided Christmas holiday gifts to persons enrolled in the Alabama Parole and Probations - Day Reporting Center (DRC) post-release program. Due to COVID restrictions, a drive thru was set up at the Alabama Non-Violent Offenders Organization (ANVO) headquarters, located within the United Way building in Huntsville, Alabama. Lee Langston, ANVO acting Director, and the ANVO staff presented gifts. The pandemic restrictions could not spoil a powerful ministry effort.

All praises be to God for a safe and blessing filled event. As Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you've also done it for me."

Our collective ministries provided the following items to the 15 men (and families) in the DRC program:

<i>DRC Enrollees</i>
15 - Gift Cards (\$75 each)
15 - Socks (6-pack)
15 - Winter Hats
15 - Male Hygiene Kits, to include Personal Hygiene Kits, Disinfectant Wipes and Hand Sanitizer (Bottle)
15 - Book (God's Wisdom and Promises, by Jack Countryman)
15 - Playing Cards
<i>Family Members</i>
37 - Winter Coats (Women and Children)
30 - Winter Hats (to include items for kids)
30 - Winter Gloves (to include items for kids)
37 - Stockings, with school materials and small toys inserted.



Persons in all three phases of the DRC program were eligible to receive blessings from God's representatives at St John.

DRC non-residential, three-phase program offers medium and high-risk probationers and parolees in the greater Huntsville area access to services, including targeted drug treatment, substance abuse intervention and rehabilitation, cognitive behavioral therapy, educational training, assistance with employment and access to spiritual development and growth. The program requires participants to perform community service, while fostering opportunities for participants to positively transform criminal attitudes, behaviors, values and beliefs.



Donations and Gift bags were overflowing with God's Blessing to His people.

The program, started in 2016 via a \$687,176 grant issued by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, is funded annually.

The DRC is an evidence-based program, modeled after the State of Georgia's network of DRCs serving both urban and rural areas of the state. Alabama's goal is to expand the program into a network of centers strategically placed to serve those areas of the state that would receive the most benefit. Birmingham, Montgomery, and Mobile also host DRC services.

COVID-19 and Your Taxes

Bobby J. Adkins, II

The year 2020 presented a myriad of challenges, with the COVID-19 pandemic taking center-stage, impacting families around the world. For many families, COVID-19 restrictions, subsequent illness and effects, have placed an incredible strain on finances and tremendous stress on families. Notwithstanding the current stress that COVID has added to the finances of those persons affected, there is a distinct possibility that future medical and health traumas will be seen these same families when the scale of the pandemic is fully realized. With so little still known about the long-term impact of the Coronavirus on one's health, having a firm understanding of COVID financial implications, prioritizing spending, and using resources efficiently will be key to your financial stability.

From an economic standpoint, COVID-19 is having an enormous influence on the US Economy, even if it is not felt yet by everyone's household budgets. From the cancellation of religious gatherings, music and fine arts events, sporting events, as well as the closing of travel between the US and other countries, business as usual has been severely disrupted.

As a result of the pandemic, many employees, to include those in professional services, government contracting, acquisition and logistics, education fields - collegiate level down thru elementary education, have gotten use to teleworking. As a result, there may be secondary tax implications that need to be addressed. Let's look at some areas of interest.



Teleworking: For the most part, an employee will pay taxes on income earned in the state they permanently reside and the state where they work. However, with so many companies sending employees' home to work to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, it's possible many workers may end up paying taxes to two jurisdictions. This could happen if you've moved, even temporarily, but your income is still derived from work done for a company located elsewhere.

Unless you instruct your employer to withhold taxes for the appropriate states, you could get an unexpected tax bill, says Eileen Sherr, senior manager for tax policy and advocacy for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). Working even one day in another state could trigger taxation, Sherr said.

According to the AICPA website, 16 states have reciprocity agreements with neighboring jurisdictions that exempt residents of a reciprocity state from income tax withholding. Most states will allow a taxpayer to apply for a credit for income taxes paid to another state. On its website, the AICPA has a state tax guidance chart for the pandemic.



Unemployment: Person X collects \$300 a week in unemployment benefits, after federal and state taxes. To make it more clear for the reader, unemployment benefits are taxed. Whether they should be is another story for another article. This writer's opinion is that taxation should be deferred or eliminated if another CARES Act or COVID stimulus bill is passed. Simply put, we've plenty of evidence illustrating large corporations (or those with significant wealth) using the stimulus to their tax advantage. Eliminating federal or state taxes on stimulus payments or benefits is a measure that would level the playing field, while also putting much needed money back into the pockets of those in most need.

What you need to know: States are required to inform all new claimants of their responsibility to pay income tax on their unemployment benefits. Still, and understandably so, many people stressed by their financial situation may not realize they have to elect to have taxes withheld or file estimated quarterly tax payments.

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COVID-19 and Your Taxes

Bobby J. Adkins, II

(Continued from page 6)

Why now? Up until 1979, unemployment benefits were tax-free. But the Revenue Act of 1978 set a threshold at which unemployment compensation would be taxed. Benefits were taxable only for single tax filers whose adjusted gross income exceeded \$20,000, or \$25,000 for joint filers.

There have been moments in our country's history where taxes were waived on unemployment benefits. As an example, for tax year 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act excluded the first \$2,400 in unemployment benefits from income taxes. With the economy in shambles, this tax release paid dividend for millions of Americans caught up in the massive economic downturn of 2008-2009.



Payroll Tax: For starters, I use the phrase, "What the government giveth, the government can taketh away". In the first few months of 2021, millions of workers could see a significant pay cut as companies recoup the coronavirus-related tax break Trump authorized in an executive order signed Aug. 8. For armed-services members, the pandemic relief effort last year led to a temporary pause in collecting Social Security tax on military pay. As a result, in August 2020, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service stopped a 6.2% payroll deduction, providing a small financial boost.

The relief effort expired at the end of December 2020. Without intervention from Congress, beginning with January 2021 paychecks, the 6.2% Social Security deduction returns, and a process begins to collect the taxes that weren't paid in 2020. For service members, the collection will be spread over 12 months. For federal civilians, collections will be made in eight installments.

Home Office Deduction: Yes, you're working from your bedroom, but no, you can't take a home office deduction. Employees are not eligible to claim the home office deduction, even if an employer requires remote work because of COVID-19. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed in 2017 eliminated employee business expenses on Schedule A. Independent contractors and the self-employed can still take a home office deduction.

Refund of 529 Fund: Concerned about the spread of the coronavirus, colleges have reversed housing decisions and have sent students home. But if you used money from a 529 college savings plan to cover the cost of housing and food, you'll need to put the money back to avoid paying income tax and a 10 percent penalty on the earnings.

A 529 plan allows contributions to grow tax-free. Here's the issue for fall education expenses: You can't keep the money; otherwise, it's considered a non-qualified distribution. Furthermore, you can't hold on to the money you took out this year to cover 2021 expenses. Distributions from a 529 plan need to match up with qualified expenses incurred during the same tax year. An account holder has just 60 days from the date of the refund to return the money to the 529 account without incurring taxes and the 10 percent penalty on earnings.



Additional Stimulus: With a second round of COVID relief stimulus underway, persons should be aware of the tax implications and expenses incurred, i.e. taxes. There is an old saying, "no good deed goes unpunished". As such, even the best (or most responsible) of efforts from the 2020 Congress related to COVID relief arrives with a glaring wart. The new Presidential administration is also pledging added stimulus, likely with the same defects attached as related to taxability. Be aware of these consequences when preparing your 2020 Federal, State, and Local taxes. Shalom!

AME Proud!

Black Owned Business of the Month



Dr. Teneshia E. Daniels, DDS
Dentist

Premiere Dental Spa

Dr. Daniels' goal is to offer effective, gentle and innovative dental and spa care to patients from all walks of life, providing them with a warm and inviting atmosphere where patients know that they matter most. She proudly provides this service at Premiere Dental Spa. Committed to providing the best, most advanced dental care, Dr. Daniels keeps up to date on advances in the dental field and enhances her skills by attending courses in cosmetic dentistry, prosthodontics, endodontics, and oral surgery. Dr. Daniels offers dental services in three areas, family dentistry, cosmetic dentistry and spa services.

Family Dentistry is best for families who are looking for a dentist to call home. When visiting our dental team twice annually for cleaning and examination, patients can avoid decay and identify potential oral health conditions, such as periodontal disease, in their early stages.

Cosmetic Dentistry improves your smile through changing the appearance of the teeth and mouth. It is presumed to be an elective treatment; but having a beautiful, engaging smile and feeling secure in one's appearance can make you feel better about yourself and lead you to a fuller, happier life.

Spa Services help you to refresh your mind, body and soul. Health, wellness, and beauty are believed to be intertwined to produce a relaxed life. Our team is equipped to ensure your time at our spa improves the quality of your well-being and enlightens your spirit helping you to feel well rested and restored. Visit the Premiere Dental Spa website at www.premieredentalspa.com.

Dr. Daniels is a member of St. John AME Church.

Scroll of Honor St. John's Health Care Professionals



Dr. Bridget Floyd
Mrs. Angelia Daniels
Mrs. Shannon Goode
Ms. Karmen Latimore
Mrs. Roselyne Machen
Mrs. Martha Smith
Mrs. Rose Merry Thomas
Mrs. Rosemary Wells



Congregational News



Mr. Eddie Sherrod, Hall of Fame Inductee

Congratulations!

Mr. Eddie Sherrod is known by many titles, coach, steward, chairperson of the Alabama Democratic Conference, Judge Sherrod's husband, Laura's dad and now, Hall of Famer. Mr. Eddie Sherrod was inducted into the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2020 in December. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and CDC guidelines governing assembling, an official ceremony was not held. Mr. Sherrod is stunningly attired in his Hall of Fame jacket, tie, and medal, holding his plaque.



Welcome The Babies!



Welcome Baby
Kael Armon Elmore
Son of
Mr. & Mrs. Quincy and Akiyah Elmore
Grand parents are
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew and Abbiegail Hugine, Jr.



Welcome Baby
Grayson Pearce Butler
Son of
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Butler
Grand parent is
Mrs. Sharon Butler



Welcome Baby
Lael Naomi Buress
Daughter of
Mr. Thomas Buress
Grand parents are
Mr. & Mrs. Lars and Mazell Avery



Welcome Baby
Zora Mae Avery
Daughter of
Tomeco Avery
Grand parents are
Mr. & Mrs. Lars and Mazell Avery

*Before I formed you in the womb
I knew you,
Before you were born
I set you apart*

Jeremiah 1:5

Highlighting Our Youth

Lydia Owens



Jayla Mack

Jayla Mack is a senior at Columbia High School. She enjoys teaching, dance, cooking, problem solving, designing, and helping others. Jayla loves sports. She played volleyball for three years for Columbia. When asked about her thoughts on virtual school or the hybrid scheduling, Jayla had this to

share. "My opinion on virtual school is actually, not as bad as I thought it would be. Sure, I miss my friends and interacting with my teachers, but I been able to move pass that. The best advantage of virtual school is that I get a complete week to finish all my assignments."

Jayla is the daughter of Ms. Latisha Mack and the granddaughter of Ms. Brenda Mack.

Addison Bradford



February 1st The Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall Day!

On Tuesday, January 28, 2020, the members of the St. John AME Church Conference were reminded that February 1st would have been Pastor McCall's 80th birthday. Pastor Wright suggested that the church would on Sunday honor his legacy by proclaiming

Sunday, February 1st as the Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall Day. A motion was then offered stating that, "Every first day of February would now and forever more be proclaimed the Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall Day. The motion passed. Pastor Wright concluded by saying, "From this day forth, every first day of February would be the Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall Day."

We continue to honor his legacy. And the best is yet to come!

Thank You!

St. John Family,

My heart was warmed by all the Christmas cards, calls, gifts and expressions of the Christmas season. Thank you just does not seem enough, but know that Granny loves each one of you. We may not see each other, but I pray for you daily.

God bless each of you and know that Granny thinks about you daily.

Love, hugs and kisses,
Deaconess Sarah Davis Granny Bell



New Year's Resolve – New Attitude Towards Your Finances

Bobby J. Adkins II

So, it's the new year and with it comes the traditional New Years Resolutions. If you are like this author, perhaps a list of dues and don'ts has been published on the front of your refrigerator, on your cellphone, or on post-it notes in your office or vehicle describing what your resolution entails. A common theme when the calendar turns to the new year is to spend less, save more, and create, then stick to a weekly, monthly or annual budget. If these are parts of your resolution, here are some tried and true approaches to define a financial resolution, create and manage a budget, and reduce or eliminate the shock to your financial system.



Try a new name: Instead of calling it a resolution, call it a goal. Resolutions at the beginning of the new year most always fail. Why? We lack resolve. We can't see the end game. After a few days or weeks of attention the usual grind of the work week, or the temptation to spend more, overwhelm the process. In addition, try naming your goal a specific outcome.

Just as the church is specific in establishing a budget for a building plan, the saver should identify what the desired outcome is. This approach may change a person's entire outlook. If the savings goal is to finance a new car, save for a child's college education, or take a trip to a destination of your dreams, name your goal after it. How about calling it "Hawaii Getaway" or "2021 Chevy Silverado." Being more descriptive adds a level of ownership and creates a target to shoot for, more so than the simple math or calculations.

Create a useful tracking document: In order to effectively track your expenditures, create a tracking file or download a file using your online software applications. If you prefer writing each expense down, a hard copy located near your filing station will suffice. If you are tech-savvy, applications such as Microsoft Excel or Google Docs will provide you useful templates that may be prefilled with most of the expenditures one would normally encounter.



Have fun with it! If you love a good competition, compete with yourself. Find ways to have a little extra money at the end of the month. When you beat the budget and exceed your monthly savings goal you present yourself a small opportunity to indulge. Say you beat your savings goal by \$50 this month. A simple reward may be a \$20 meal at your favorite restaurant or a new gadget from the electronics store. Again, the goal is to hit your savings target, while also being able to treat yourself a bit after the goal has been attained. This simple indulging doesn't take you off track. It's a reward for exceeding the plan.

Be realistic: If you plan on sticking to your budget, take a look at your historical data for each line-item expenditure. Try collecting data for a minimum of three years if possible. Identify trends such as the months with the highest and lowest utility costs. Factoring in the high and low points of your expenditures provides a level of realism each month. Remember, the goal is to save a specific amount, but it doesn't have to be the same amount each month. Factor in months where you can save more due to a low utility cost or offset the high spend month thru savings in other categories.

Creating a budget shouldn't feel like rocket science. The four tips above provide an easy to execute framework that will move the savvy saver in a better financial position and more long-term financial security. Happy Savings!

Church School Lesson Overview – February 2021

The reviews were written by Brother Kenneth Parham

February 1, 2021

Lesson Title: Call to Evangelize

Lesson Scripture: John 1:37-51; 4:25-42

Print: John 4:25-42

Devotional Songs: #221[], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verse: Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." John 4:39 (NRSV)

In earlier verses of chapter 4 a conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman is in progress. The setting where the conversation takes place is at the well of Jacob. Here the woman has several things revealed to her. She is introduced to the concept of living water, she is made aware that one may worship God anywhere (in spirit and truth) versus on a mountain (Samaritan belief) or in Jerusalem's temple (Jewish belief), she is told of her past and present living arrangements and; she is also made aware that Jesus is the promised Messiah spoken of by the prophets. With all of this newly digested information, the Samaritan woman is full and takes the opportunity to return to her city to let others know of the encounter (an act of evangelizing).

While the woman is finishing her conversation with Jesus and before returning to the city, the disciples, returning from gathering food ask Jesus what is he doing talking with the woman and asks if he is hungry. He replies that the work that he was sent to do provides his daily nourishment. He indicates that a gathering will soon take place where there will be many seeking the salvation promised to the Jews and indicates that even though the disciples were not part of sowing in this effort, they will be part and experience a great harvest of souls for God. And as foretold, the crowd from the city comes to where Jesus is located not that some did not believe the woman but because some knew the scriptures and wanted to learn more first hand. Jesus spends several days evangelizing to the crowd and many are saved.

February 14, 2021

Lesson Title: Mary Magdalene: A Faithful Disciple

Lesson Scripture: Mark 15:40; 16:1-9; Luke 8:1-3;

John 20:10-18

Lesson Print: Luke 8:1-3; Mark 15:40; John 20:10-18

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

Key Verse: The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits. Luke 8:1-2 (NRSV)

This lesson highlights the work behind the scene of women supporting the ministry of Jesus. It is noted that the women who usually supported from afar providing food and money to sustain Jesus and his disciples. And this lesson highlights one particular woman's love, devotion and dedication to Jesus. It is noted that Jesus drove out seven evil spirit from this woman, Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene's love, devotion and dedication are further evident at the scene of Jesus' tomb when she discovers that Jesus is no longer inside. She is understandably upset even after the angels attempt to communicate that Jesus has risen but she then turns away and speaks to who she believes is the caretaker. Again, Jesus asks her why is she weeping and again she responds the same. Jesus then calls her by her name which brings her out of her grief and she immediately recognizes Jesus' voice and like most human seeking comfort wants to embrace Jesus. Jesus also immediately understands Mary's intentions and stops her by saying, "do not touch me for I have not ascended to heaven." According to the Life Application Study Bible commentary, Jesus knew that he had to ascend to heaven in order for the holy spirit to come (fulfilling scripture). Jesus then gives Mary instructions to go and tell the disciples what she has witnessed.

February 21, 2021

Lesson Title: Priscilla Called to Minister

Lesson Scripture: Acts 18:1-26; Romans 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19

Lesson Print: Acts 18:1-3, 18-21, 24-26; Romans 16:3-4

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

Key Verse: Greet Prisca and Aquila, who work with me in Christ Jesus, and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Romans 16:3-4 (NRSV)

Herein, we encounter Paul carrying out of establishing churches throughout. Paul has come to Corinth and he meets a couple, Aquila and Priscilla, who had just arrived from Italy because Claudius (Emperor of Rome) commanded that all Jews leave Rome. Paul and the couple decide to live and work together, both Paul and Aquila are both tent makers. It is noted that after a considerable amount of time spent with the believers at Corinth, Paul decides it's time to leave Corinth. Paul and the couple sail to Syria.

Upon arrival in the city of Ephesus, Paul separates from the

(Continued on page 13)

Church School Lesson Overview – February 2021

(Continued from page 12)

couple and heads for the synagogue to have discussions with the Jews. Once his business is complete and leaving all hoping for his return, Paul sails from Ephesus.

Though Paul is no longer at Ephesus spreading Christianity, it is noted that an enthusiastic, well-versed in scriptures and eloquent young man, Apollos, arrives in Ephesus. Apollos goes about accurately teaching about things concerning Jesus even though he only knew the baptism of Jesus by John. It is noted that his boldness led him into the synagogue where he starts to teach. At this point he is noticed by Priscilla and Aquila who pulls Apollos aside and accurately explained the way of God.

February 28, 2021

Lesson Title: Lydia: Called to Serve

Lesson Scripture: Acts 16:11-15, 40; 1 Corinthians 1:26-30

Lesson Print: Acts 16:11-15, 40; 1 Corinthians 1:26-30

Devotional Songs: #97[]; #321[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: When (Lydia) and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us. Acts 16:15 (NRSV)

In Paul's continued travels to spread Christianity, he stops in the city of Philippi. And on the Sabbath, Paul and company decided to find a place of prayer outside the city near the river. Amongst the women worshipping there was one worshipper of God named Lydia. In the lesson text, Lydia is described as being from the city of Thyatira and a dealer of purple cloth. Research indicates that purple fabric during that time period was reserved for royalty, meaning that Lydia had some wealth because of the expense to make or dye fabric purple and to whom she sold her fabric. While Paul was talking, God opened Lydia's heart and she listened eagerly. In fact, she was so overwhelmed, that she and her whole household was baptized by Paul.

Lydia as a newly convert wanted to do something for Paul to show her appreciation, she indicated that if Paul had judged her as being faithful to the Lord, she prevailed Paul to come stay at her home. Paul later accepts Lydia's offer after being released from prison and while staying with Lydia, Paul was able to meet and encourage many believers (both male and female).

In this series of lesson reviews, the common theme is that God's plan sometimes goes against what is considered normal.

In the above four lessons, the God-spirit interacts with the women of that time to continue God's work of spreading the good news. As Paul concludes in this lesson, he states, "...not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth ... sometimes God uses the foolish to shame the wise and He uses the lowly and despised in the world to reduce to nothing the things that are."

2 Timothy 2:15...NKJV

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Kids' Corner



Bible Pathway Adventures

BIBLE QUIZ

WOMAN AT THE WELL

Match the question with the answer on the right.

Questions

- ____ What is Jesus' Hebrew name?
After Yeshua left Judea, where did He go?
At which well did Yeshua talk with the woman?
____ From what region was the woman who came to draw water?
____ Where had Yeshua's disciples gone?
____ Yeshua was of which tribe of Israel?
____ How many husbands had the woman at the well had?
The hour is coming when true worshipers will worship the Father in ____ and truth, (John 4:23)
____ Who did Yeshua tell the woman was the Messiah?
____ Whoever ____ of the water I will give him will never be thirsty again. (John 4:14)

Answers

1. Jacob's well
2. drinks
3. Himself
4. Judah
5. Yeshua
6. Into Sychar to buy food
7. spirit
8. Samaria
9. Galilee
10. Five

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During the months of January and February
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=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09)
[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09)

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



"Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

A Message from the Director
YPDer, you still have time to participate in
the Coronavirus Be Safe Campaign. Here
are the details.

Coronavirus



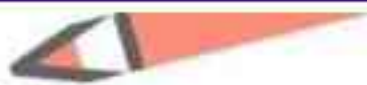
Campaign

NWAC 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. YPDers may create Tik Tok videos between 15-30 seconds that promote CDC Protocols. All persons featured in the e videos must grant permission. These videos may be used on other social media sites including, but not limited to, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat. Videos and flyers must include the tagline: "This message is sponsored by the Northwest Conference YPD Department."

Additional Announcements

1. Please see the flyer on the next page regarding Tutoring for YPDers grades K-5.
2. New YPD email address: StJypdhsv@gmail.com. Parents and YPDers may use this email to contact Mrs. Deidre Walton, YPD Director.

St. John AME Church
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President
Young People's Division
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director



9TH DISTRICT
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
AND

YOUNG PEOPLE'S AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION
BACK TO BASICS
ZOOM TUTORIAL PROGRAM



WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

Can you spare some time?

Day: Tuesday

Time: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

**Areas of Focus: Reading/Math/Science with
implementation in Writing**

Grades: K-5

Please contact:

2nd Vice President: Sister Mary Wells-Porter

Cell: 1-205-344-3358

Email: mwp1200@gmail.com

YPD Director: Sister Debra Weatherspoon

Cell: 1-251-214-4371

Maurice_weatherspo@att.net





Church School Book Club

January 2021

**Discussion Date: January 16, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

Nine Perfect Strangers, Moriarty, Liana, 2019.

February 2021

**Discussion Date: February 20, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

A Promised Land, Obama, Barack, 2020.

In the stirring, highly anticipated first volume of his presidential memoirs, Barack Obama tells the story of his improbable odyssey from young man searching for his identity to leader of the free world, describing in strikingly personal detail both his political education and the landmark moments of the first term of his historic presidency—a time of dramatic transformation and turmoil.

Obama takes readers on a compelling journey from his earliest political aspirations to the pivotal Iowa caucus victory that demonstrated the power of grassroots activism to the watershed night of November 4, 2008, when he was elected 44th president of the United States, becoming the first African American to hold the nation's highest office.

—Amazon

Young Readers' Café



Daddy Yo-Yo and the Marble Tournament

Dr. Janice Draper Toney

Illustrator Barton S. Sanders

Daddy Yo-Yo and the Marble Tournament was written on a story based on the concept of building moral character and ethics within

oneself. By taking care of the community and having pride and self worth, not only in yourself, but in the children who are our future generations. Daddy Yo-Yo was the oldest and the wisest man who lived in the neighborhood. He was the one that everyone went to for advice. From young to old, single to married, teenagers to babies, Daddy Yo-Yo was the person all parents trusted when they went to work to watch out for not only their kids, but also all the children who lived in the neighborhood. You know what! Daddy Yo-Yo was so dedicated to the community that he even watched the children on Sundays after morning and evening worship services. He always reminded the children to enjoy their Sundays, but remember to make it home to their porches before the street lights came on.

Dr. Toney is a retired educator and native of Huntsville. She is an Alabama A&M alumna and a member of Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Daddy Yo-Yo and The Marble Tournament may be purchased directly from Dr. Toney for \$25.00 including S&H. Email Dr. Toney for purchase details at <aaliyah81498@bellsouth.net.>

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** 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	+ Check each box that applies <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>☐ Tithes</td> <td>Amount _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Offering</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Benevolence</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Sunday School</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Soup Kitchen</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Daniel Payne</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Building Project</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Holiday Food Box</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Other</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>	☐ Tithes	Amount _____	☐ Offering	_____	☐ Benevolence	_____	☐ Sunday School	_____	☐ Soup Kitchen	_____	☐ Daniel Payne	_____	☐ Building Project	_____	☐ Holiday Food Box	_____	☐ Other	_____	TOTAL	_____
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Name _____																								
Address _____																								
City _____	State _____	Zip _____																						
Phone _____	Email _____																							
Cash Amount _____	Check Amount _____	☐ Verified																						

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 The Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall Day!	2 Gooding Day	3	4	5 AMEN Staff Meeting	6 Communion Element Pick-up 10:00-12:00 pm
7 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	8 8:30 a.m. Fifty Plus Meeting 5:00 p.m. History Makers Ministry 6:00 p.m. CPR Ministry	9	10 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	11	12	13
14 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Valentine's Day AME Church Founder's Day 	15 Presidents Day	16 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	17 6:00 p.m. Bible Study Ask Wednesday Lent Begins	18	19	20 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
21 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	22 6:00 p.m. Lay Meeting	23 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	24 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	25	26	27 10:00 a.m. WHS Meeting
28 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship						



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

ENCOURAGING • EMPOWERING • ENABLING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020 - 2021

NOVEMBER 2020

- 5-7 – Planning Meeting, St. John AME Church, Huntsville, AL (Invitation Only) Virtual for all others
- 21 – 61st Annual Lay Convention, Virtual
- 26 – Thanksgiving Day
- 29 – First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 2020

- 1 – World AIDS Day & Rosa Parks Holiday
- 5 – WMS Annual Meeting
- 6 – Rosa Parks Sunday Celebration
- 10 – Ninth District Virtual Christmas with the Bishop
- 12 – Ninth District Community Christmas Celebration
- 25 – Christmas
- 31 – Watch Night

JANUARY 2021

- 1 – New Year's Day
- 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 23 – Nichols•Thomas•Grady Institute "Technology 101" Workshop
- 28-30 – WMS Executive Board & Training, Virtual

FEBRUARY 2021

- 6 – District CEC Leadership Training
- 14 – Richard Allen's Birthday, Founder's Day & Valentine's Day
- 15 – Presidents' Day
- 17 – Nichols•Thomas•Grady Institute "An Evening of Remembrance" Virtual
- 27 – Bishop & Supervisor Seawright 39th Wedding Anniversary

MARCH 2021

- 7 – Bloody Sunday, Selma
- 16 – Bishop Seawright's Birthday
- 28 – Palm Sunday
- 28 March – 3 April
Holy Week

APRIL 2021

- 2 – Good Friday
- 4 – Easter
- 8-10 – Ninth District Mid-Year Convocation Meeting
- 24 – Nichols•Thomas•Grady Institute "The Church: Past, Present, and Future" Virtual
- 30 – Nichols•Thomas•Grady Institute "Love Feast" Virtual



NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

ENCOURAGING, EMPOWERING, ENABLING THE PEOPLE OF GOD!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2020 - 2021

MAY 2021

- 6 - National Day of Prayer
- 10 - Mother's Day
- 23 - Pentecost Scattered, A Day of Witnessing
- 31 - Memorial Day

JUNE 2021

- 15 - Ninth District CEC
- 20 - Father's Day

JULY 2021

- 4 - Independence Day
- 6-11 - 51st AME General Conference, Orlando, FL
- 12-13 - Lay Biennial
- 19 - Supervisor Sherita's Birthday

AUGUST 2021

- 21 - ARR WMS & YPD Annual Conference
- 25-27 - ARR Annual Conference

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 4 - NW WMS & YPD Annual Conference
- 6 - Labor Day
- 8-10 - NW Annual Conference
- 18 - SE WMS & YPD Annual Conference
- 22-24 - SE Annual Conference

OCTOBER 2021

- 2 - NE WMS & YPD Annual Conference
- 6-8 - NE Annual Conference
- 16 - SW WMS & YPD Annual Conference
- 20-22 - SW Annual Conference

* Next Planning Meeting Date is November 4 - 6, 2021

** All dates are subject to change.

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

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Permit No. 240

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

Important Dates to Remember

February 14, 2021 4:00 pm. The third session of The Healing Hearts Ministry's Grief and Support Session.

February 26, 2021, 7:00 pm. "The Black Church." An APT documentary hosted by executive producer and writer Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



INDNJC

ST. JOHN A.M.E.N NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 26 Issue 2

February 2021



Bishop Richard Allen
February 14, 1760–
March 26, 1831

Happy Founder's Day!

Richard Allen was a minister, educator, writer, and one of America's most active and influential Black leaders. In 1794, he founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first independent Black denomination in the United States. He opened his first AME church in 1794, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is with pride that we celebrate 227 years of the founding of African Methodism.

St. John AME Church, Huntsville joined 2.5 million African Methodist Episcopal Church members, across five continents, twenty-three countries, and twenty episcopal districts in celebrating the birthday of the founder, Bishop Richard Allen on February 14th.

2021 BLACK HISTORY THEME: THE BLACK FAMILY: Representation, Identity, and Diversity

The black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines—history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy. Its representation, identity, and diversity have been revered, stereotyped, and vilified from the days of slavery to our own time. The black family knows no single location, since family reunions and genetic-ancestry searches testify to the spread of family members across states, nations, and continents. Not only are individual black families diasporic, but Africa and the diaspora itself have been long portrayed as the black family at large. While the role of the black family has been described by some as a microcosm of the entire race, its complexity as the “foundation” of African American life and history can be seen in numerous debates over how to represent its meaning and typicality from a historical perspective—as slave or free, as patriarchal or matriarchal/matrifocal, as single-headed or dual-headed household, as extended or nuclear, as fictive kin or blood lineage, as legal or common law, and as black or interracial, etc. Variation appears, as well, in discussions on the nature and impact of parenting, childhood, marriage, gender norms, sexuality, and incarceration. The family offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present.



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY
THE FOUNDERS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH
WWW.ASALH.ORG | 202-238-5910 | #ASALH

February 1, 2021
The Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall Day!

Dr. Homer L. McCall Day

LOOKING BACK

- ♦ A Man of God & Dedicated Family Man
- ♦ A Prayer Warrior
- ♦ Pastor of St. John for almost four decades
- ♦ Proud graduate of Morehouse College
- ♦ Ordained by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ♦ English Professor @ Alabama A&M University
- ♦ University Chaplain—Alabama A&M University
- ♦ Received honorary title of Chaplain & Professor Emeritus—Alabama A&M University
- ♦ Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- ♦ Life Member—NAACP
- ♦ Member of 100 Black Men of America

Remembering the Life & Legacy of
REV. DR. HOMER L. MCCALL

FEBRUARY 1ST

TODAY, WE REMEMBER YOU!

REV. MAURICE WRIGHT, II
Servant Pastor

The St. John AME Church Family

The play back of the worship service on Sunday, January 31, 2021, honoring Dr. McCall may be found on Facebook or on YouTube under St. John AME Church.

Sermon title: Living For the Moment, Judges 21:25

Sermon delivered by The Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall

The audio-visual presentation was arranged by the Media Ministry of St. John AME Church.

Bridget J. Floyd

With God, it is possible to be unstoppable. Whether it is overcoming slavery, prejudice; founding and leading an historic church/denomination that is known for advocating for social justice and tending to those who were critically ill; and laying the foundation for a time of perseverance in the midst of a present-day pandemic. The Church has expanded beyond the walls of any building – Unstoppable.



Health & Wellness

The COVID-19 Vaccine and What We Should Know

Come this March 2021, St. John members will have been out of the church for one full year due to the COVID-19 Virus. No one would have imagined this time last year that the world would have been so devastated by this virus in the way that it has been. Schools-closed, jobs-gone, and restaurant dining, a thing of the past. Vacationing, cruising, attending sporting events-not in this day and time. Sickness and hospitalizations on the rise in every state. Deaths, tragic loss of life, 500,071 in the United States alone. This virus has touched every aspect of life as we knew it prior to March 2020. Everyone has been told to "mask up," social distance, wash their hands frequently, and shelter in place. The demand for Clorox Bleach, Lysol Spray and hand sanitizer was incredible. And the only hope, second only to prayer, was the development and mass-production of an effective vaccine.



The former presidential administration having arrived late to the party, finally initiated "Operation Warp Speed," on May 15, 2020. It was to be a program designed to accelerate development, production, and distribution of an effective vaccine. The world listened attentively to every word uttered by Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, as he spoke explicitly regarding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regulations and guidelines to curb the spread of the virus.

Six companies had been assigned the task of developing the vaccines; (1) Nova, (2) Astra Zeneca; (3) Johnson & Johnson; (4) Sanofi and Glaxo Smith Kline; (5) Moderna, and (Pfizer-BioNTech). Then, on December 14, 2020, the first Coronavirus vaccine shots were given in New York City. As more vaccine was developed, states began receiving shipments.

Currently only two of the six are authorized COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna have both received Emergency Use Authorization from the Food and Drug Administration for use in the U.S., meaning they can be made available to the public during the pandemic.

All FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are covered at no additional cost during the public health emergency. Coverage applies no matter where the vaccine received, including both in-network and out-of-network providers, and includes instances in which two vaccine doses are required.

Due to limited supply, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that the vaccine be distributed in phases, beginning with the most at-risk. CDC recommendations beginning January 1, 2021:

Phase 1a includes healthcare workers and residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

Phase 1b includes frontline essential workers such as firefighters, police officers, correction officers, food and agricultural workers, U.S. Postal Service workers, public transit workers, grocery store workers, manufacturing workers and those who work in the educational sector (teachers, support staff, and daycare workers). Phase 1b also includes people age 75 and older.

Phase 1c includes people age 65-74 years old. Phase 1c also includes people age 16-64 years with underlying medical conditions, and other essential workers, such as those who work in transportation, logistics, food service, housing construction, finance, information technology, communications, energy, law, media, public safety, and public health.

Although the availability of the vaccine has been ramped up and more distribution sites are beginning to open, it is imperative that the public continue to adhere to the CDC regulations of wearing a mask at all times, social distancing and frequent

(Continued on page 5)

Health & Wellness

The COVID-19 Vaccine and What We Should Know

(Continued from page 4)

hand washing.

If you have questions regarding vaccine availability, please visit <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/assets/adph-covid19-vaccine-allocation-plan.pdf> for the most up-to-date information.

For Huntsville residents seeking an appointment for the vaccine, visit the Huntsville Hospital webpage at www.huntsvillehospital.org, and follow the prompts.



A message from Huntsville Hospital: If you fit into one of the categories listed on the website, and would like to receive the vaccine, please select one of the categories, and complete the appropriate online request form. Your registration puts you on the waiting list for vaccination. It **does not** make an appointment for you. You will be called to schedule an appointment at our Community Vaccination Clinic at John Hunt Park. Please do not call the hospital or show up at the clinic without an appointment. We have received tens of thousands of requests and we are working through them as vaccines are sent to us.

"What to Know Concerning the COVID-19 Vaccine." *The PEEHIP Advisor*, Public Education Employee's Health Insurance, February 2021. www.rsa-al.gov/peehip/publications/advisor.

Senior Rx

The overall purpose of the Senior Rx program is to provide prescription drug assistance to persons 55 years of age and older by helping older adults receive free prescription drugs from pharmaceutical manufacturers. The Senior Rx program relies on the guidelines set forth by the pharmaceutical companies providing the drugs.

TARCOG contracts with the County Commissions in each of the TARCOG counties to implement this program. Senior Rx clients, or their family members or representatives, must make an appointment with the respective county Senior Rx office to file for medication assistance. Madison County Senior Rx Program contact number is 256-532-3345, physical address is 819 Cook Ave. Suite 137 Huntsville, Alabama, 35801.

Eligibility

To qualify for our help in applying for *no or low cost* prescription drugs through programs offered by pharmaceutical companies, you must meet the following criteria:

Be a legal resident of the state of Alabama and apply in your legal county of residence. For seniors...

- Be 55 years of age or older.
- Have at least one chronic medical condition and taking daily medication for the condition.
- Have an income at 200% of the poverty level (Some pharmaceutical companies allow higher incomes, so please come in for an evaluation even if you feel your income may be too high.)
- Have no prescription drug coverage or insufficient drug coverage.
- Have a Medicare Part D plan but are in the coverage gap for services (donut hole) -or- have a Medicare Part D plan that does not cover your drugs.

AME Proud!

Black-Owned Business of the Month

Mr. Clifton Miller, Real Estate Agent



Mr. Clifton Miller, Associate
Broker, CRI, MRP

Mr. Clifton Miller, a native of Hale County Alabama and now a resident of Huntsville, Alabama, has been in the real estate business for over twenty-five years. He is a 1975 graduate with honors from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. He served his country with 20 years of military service in the United States Army.

During his illustrious career in real estate, he was elected the first African American president of the Board of Realtors in its 60 year existence. In 2013, he was presented with the Realtor of the Year award for his outstanding performance. Mr. Miller has also served on the Alabama Real Estate Commission for ten years. In the real estate arena he is known as "The hardest working man in real estate."

Mr. Miller's real estate expertise has been in great demand by many agencies, such as Rise Realty, and Legend Realty. His professionalism and humbleness proceed him. He is currently an Associate Broker with CK Mann Realty. For all your home needs, whether selling or buying, visit Mr. Clifton Miller at cmiller401@yahoo.com or contact him at 256-337-1001 (mobile).

Mr. Miller and his wife Tullie are members of St. John AME Church. He sings in the St. John Male Chorus, co-chairs the Couples Ministry, serves as a Steward, a Sunday School teacher and is a member of the 50+ Auxiliary. The Millers have two adult children and four grandchildren.

Whitehead Realty
Direct: 256-426-9003
Fax: 800-348-2451
Erica@HarbinRealty.com
www.BuyAndSellAL.com
1001 Boulevard SE, 35894 Huntsville, AL, 35899

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Realtors
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Jamelabradford.com



Dr. Rena Lott, Agent
BHHS Rise Real Estate
256-655-4121
Rena.lott@comcast.net

Congregational News



Pamela Whitehead, Ph. D

Dr. Pamela Whitehead

With great pleasure it is announced that Sister Pamela Whitehead has completed the degree requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Management from the University of South Alabama. She defended her dissertation entitled, *"The Paradox of Impression Management: A Rose-colored Lens and a Smokescreen of Deception,"* on February 5, 2021. She gives God all the glory for allowing her to fulfill this lifelong dream and is very thankful to everyone for their prayers and support.

She is currently the Agency Records Officer at the Missile Defense Agency. She has a background in Information Management and Technology which spans over twenty years.

Dr. Pamela Whitehead is the proud mother of Eddie Jr. who is a freshmen at Stillman College and Kimberly who is an 11th grader at Decatur High School. Her greatest joy is spending time with family and friends, helping others and doing the work of the Lord.

Dr. Whitehead gives of her time, talent and treasure at St. John AME Church, Huntsville. She is a Steward, serves as the church secretary, connectional secretary for the Music and Christian Arts Ministry, (MCAM) and chairs the hospitality committee. Hers is the voice, which welcomes everyone to worship service on Sunday mornings as we worship virtually.

You did it!
Congratulations

Thank You

Dear Pastor Wright, Stewards, Trustees, CPR Ministry, WMS and entire St. John Family,

We deeply appreciate you for the heartfelt sympathy cards and your words of comfort that reminded us about the blessed life that we shared with our beloved mother.

We are also appreciative of your phone calls, prayers and kindnesses that you have extended to our entire family during this very difficult time.



In Christ,
Booker T. & Mary Rankin

Sending a prayer of thanks to God ...
... A note of thanks to you

My St. John Family,

Thank you so much for the generosity shown my family through the CPR Ministry. It warmed our very hearts to know our St. John family had us in their thoughts and prayers.

Thank again,
The Peatsons, Clifton & Clementine

Highlighting Our Youth

Lydia Owens



Jessica Harbin

Jessica Harbin is a 6th grader at Moores Mill Intermediate School. Her favorite academic course is Math. She enjoys participating in basketball, volleyball and dance.

When asked about virtual school, her response was, "I don't really like virtual school because I am a visual learner. I would rather learn in the classroom. I like hybrid because all the kids are not at school and I have more space in the classroom to work. The only thing I don't like about hybrid is that I have to do virtual school three days a week."

Jessica participates in the Children's Choir, Dance Ministry, and the YPD at St. John. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Harbin and the sister to Anthony Harbin.

Kimberly Rae Whitehead



Kimberly is an 11th grader at Decatur High School. Pre-Covid, she played on the Jr. Varsity Volleyball Team. She is a Peer Buddy for Special Needs Students, and participates in The Links, Incorporated Weekend Scholars Program.

Kimberly does traditional in-person learning with occasional remote learning periods. Kim enjoys technology and does well with digital learning when necessary.

Kimberly is an active member of the Young Peoples Department at St. John AME Church.

Kimberly is the daughter of Mr. Eddie Whitehead and Mrs. Pamela Whitehead and her brother is Eddie Whitehead, Jr.



Derryn Chrisette Goode

Derryn Chrisette Goode is a charismatic and intelligent young lady. Derryn is currently in the 6th Grade at the Academy for Academics and Arts. She has earned and maintained the Honor Roll so far and she was inducted into the Junior Honors Society.

She currently plays soccer for AYSO 498 League. She also plays recreation basketball with Metro and AAU with Alabama Elite. She loves to draw, paint, dance and design clothes for her dolls.

Derryn is a member of the Y.P.D. and the Children's/Youth Choir at church. Derryn started her school year off in Virtual School but she did not really like it that much so she returned to the classroom this semester. When Derryn grows up she wants to be a visual artist or play Women's Basketball with the WNBA.

Derryn and her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Goode are members of St. John AME Church.

Grateful and Blessed
Thank you so much!

Pastor Wright & my St. John Church Family,
I am so grateful for the help I received and
will never forget your love
and kindness.

Love you All!
Sis. Lillie Rivers




Thank You

The world is a better place because you're in it.
Thank you for remembering me at Christmas.

Sister Eleanor Burnett

Celebrating the Achievements of African Americans!



Madame Vice President of the
United States Kamala Harris

Madam Vice President, Kamala Harris

Kamala Harris was born October 20, 1964, to a Black Stanford University professor and a Tamil Indian physician mother. In August 2020, Harris became the first Black woman, the first person of Indian descent, and the fourth woman in U.S. history to be selected for a presidential ticket by a major party, when she accepted the vice-presidential nomination with Democrat Joe Biden. In November 2020, Harris was elected as vice president, for a term beginning on January 20, 2021.

Harris was also the first California attorney general with Black or South Asian ancestry after defeating Republican rival Steve Cooley in the 2010 election for the position. Harris, formerly San Francisco's district attorney, was also the first woman to serve in the role. Kamala Harris sought the Democratic presidential nomination, announcing her intention on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2019, but dropped out of the primary race in December 2019.

Vice President Harris is a graduate of Howard University and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is married to Mr. Douglas Emhoff and they have two adult children.

General (Retired) Lloyd J. Austin, Secretary of Defense

General (Retired) Lloyd J. Austin, III is the First African American to serve as the U.S. Secretary of Defense. He is the 28th Secretary of Defense. He was sworn in on January 22, 2021. He leads the Department of Defense, which is the largest employer in the world, comprised of over 2.1 million service members and civilians. The Secretary of Defense oversees the Defense Department and acts as the principle defense policy maker and advisor. He is a West Point graduate. He served 41 years in the military and retired as a 4-Star Army general. His last assignment was the Commander of U.S. Central Command.



General (Ret.) Lloyd J. Austin, III, Mrs. Austin and
Vice President Kamala Harris.



Vice President Kamala Harris, President Joseph R. Biden
and Secretary of Defense, General (Ret.) Lloyd J. Austin, III

Church School Lesson Overview – March 2021

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer

March 7, 2021

Lesson Title: Prophet of Deliverance

Lesson Scripture: Exodus 12:28-50; Deuteronomy 18:15-22

Print: Deuteronomy 18:15-22

Devotional Songs: #323[], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him" (Deuteronomy 18:15).

This week's lesson comes from Deuteronomy 18 and is a highpoint of a block of instructions about many leadership posts that give guidance to God's people. The directives for a king when read provides a sense of the differences between a king in Israel compared to those kings who ruled over other nations.

The start of a new lesson and new quarter looks at "Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant." Christians often think of the prophetic book when they think of the prophets where things are divided into five Major Prophets books and twelve Minor Prophets books. Besides these prophets there were many others.

Deuteronomy ends with the statement that since it was written, "no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face".

March 14, 2021

Lesson Title: Prophet of Conquest

Lesson Scripture: Joshua 5:13-6:27

Print: Joshua 5:13-15

Devotional Songs: #414[], #251[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "The LORD said to Joshua, 'See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men' (Joshua 6:2).

In this week's lesson Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, got a message from the Lord about the winning of the promised land.

We normally do not think of Joshua as being a prophet, as that is overshadowed by his role as a military commander. His actions with the sword are remembered much more than his proclamations of God's messages to the Israelites.

The early Prophets are very different from the later Prophets like Isaiah or Hosea. Those among the early Prophets are concerned with God's guiding the people through His chosen leaders. Joshua was the first among these leaders followed by the judges.

March 21, 2021

Lesson Title: Prophet of Wisdom

Lesson Scripture: 2 Kings 22

Print: 2 Kings 22:14-20

Devotional Songs: #77[], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people—that they would become a curse and be laid waste—and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the LORD" (2 Kings 22:19).

This lesson looks at events that happened in the days of Josiah, king of the southern kingdom Judah who reigned 640-609 BC. He is described as a godly king and is known for his endless attempts to purify Judah's worship and the temple.

Josiah ordered that the temple be renovated. In the process of the renovation the Book of the Law was found within the temple. The book had been lost previously during the wicked reigns of Manasseh and Amon years earlier. The commentary speculates that in order to hide the guilt of their own abandonment of religious belief the idolatrous priests intentionally "misplaced" it.

March 28, 2021

Lesson Title: Prophet of Courage

Lesson Scripture: 1 Kings 18-19; Matthew 17:1-13

Print: 1 Kings 18:5-18

Devotional Songs: #412[], #321[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "I have not made trouble for Israel, Elijah replied. But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals." (1 Kings 18:18).

This week's lesson highlights Elijah, whom God used to confront Ahab (a wicked king of Israel) and Jezebel (his ruthless wife). Elijah is the man with mettle who God had chosen, because the situation called for someone who would not back down to defiance of Israel's true God.

(Continued on page 11)

Continued from page 101

Revelations 1:3

Wait for the Lord;
Be strong and take
heart
And wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:14

Just a note to let you know
how much your
kindness and thoughtfulness
were appreciated.

Deaconess Gwendolyn Baldwin

Pastor Wright, Officers and members of St. John AME Church.

Thank you for your prayers, calls, cards and words of comfort and encouragement during the loss of our cousin, Mrs. Marilyn Powers Batts. Your thoughtfulness and kind expressions will always be remembered.

In Christian love,
Barbara, Jesse, Ronald and
Mrs. Janice Johnson-Hereford

Kids' Corner

God Spoke to Moses Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



I	T	S	T	N	U	W	O	R	S	H	T	P	T	D
U	F	T	A	I	T	Q	U	A	T	U	O	R	F	T
L	I	K	E	R	E	G	Y	P	I	M	K	L	L	O
N	K	L	L	A	N	C	U	N	S	E	B	U	A	S
N	E	N	S	E	Q	U	I	S	C	I	U	L	M	N
D	R	E	V	E	L	E	X	E	R	Z	S	I	E	R
I	A	O	R	F	A	N	G	F	I	S	H	T	F	R
M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	R	E	T	T	T	V	E
I	T	N	I	A	T	B	I	E	N	I	E	M	O	D
T	R	O	N	B	U	R	N	I	N	G	S	V	S	E
I	A	F	Q	U	A	T	N	O	N	F	F	C	T	F
I	U	E	S	U	L	O	R	E	D	E	L	L	Q	U
Z	K	I	I	C	J	K	F	P	H	A	K	O	A	H
L	A	O	R	E	U	O	L	O	R	S	I	T	C	R
S	U	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	T	E	S	T	V	K

ANCIENT
BURNING
BUSH

EGYPT
FLAME

FLICKER
MOUNTAIN

PHARAOH
WORSHIP

Lenten Season: A Time for Growth

By: Bobby J. Adkins II



Starting on Ash Wednesday and extending through Easter Sunday, Christians around the world use the Lenten Season as time to honor Jesus Christ through acts of elimination, i.e. removing something of personal value from their daily lives. These active displays of sacrifice underscore a commitment to Jesus Christ. As an alternative, some Christians choose to add things to their lives such as acts of kindness or volunteerism instead of fasting or giving up something of value. No matter the choice, these acts of kindness, sacrifice, or giving are more than respectable and highly commendable. They are necessary in respecting and honoring the significance of the season.

That being said, the season of Lent is more than just acts of sacrifice or obedience. The Lenten Season is a time for personal and spiritual growth. During the 40-day Lenten period, Christians should consider taking on a personal challenge and use this time to reflect inwardly, even as they look to the examples of Jesus. Designating this time for improvement and growth in all facets of life, to include spiritual, mental, emotional, financial, and physical well-being, is essential for personal and Christian growth.

Lenten season can be a time to reflect upon personal values and morals, of seeking ways to improve relationships and for addressing fears or anxieties that may be debilitating factors in our Christian walk. As God provides the believer with ample portions of grace and mercy each day, reflecting on the goodness of God each day of Lent aids in establishing a habit of seeking God continually, enhances prayer life, enables better study of God's Word and allows for deeper meditating on Godly principles and scripture. What are some things a believer should consider adding to their lives during Lent? Here are some recommendations.

Spiritual: As indicated earlier, a renewed commitment to reading God's Word is a great place to focus for enhancing spiritual growth. Adding extra time each day to study and reflect on scripture will go a long way towards setting a new personal standard. Expanding our prayer lives is also an area, being more deliberate in praying for others instead of ourselves.

Mental: Focusing on improvement intellectually through reading or viewing of material specifically targeting deficiencies that hinder one's daily walk. Also, focusing on improvement in areas that support ministry growth and effectiveness warrants consideration. Things that bring a person more confidence in leadership are also of interest.

Emotional: Taking time during Lent to discover ways to better manage emotions could be considered a welcome addition to Lenten activities. Being more patient or tolerant, specifically when the situation requires a dose of both, requires more emotional stability.

Financial: Are you a tither? Do you have a desire to give more? Are you looking to save more? During Lent, try increasing your giving each week. It may be only a few dollars each period, but it is not the amount, it is the commitment to be better. Try giving a bit more and saving a bit more. If choosing to give up that daily cup of Joe during Lent, try routing those savings into the offering plate or a savings account.

Physically: When was the last time a good stretch was part of the daily routine? Walking a mile? Riding a bicycle? During Lent, commit to a daily physical activity where there is the opportunity to look out in wonder at all God has created. No matter one's physical abilities, there are always areas that can be improved.

If fasting is not an activity which can be sustained over the 40-day period of Lent, consider adding a new challenge which will provide spiritual, mental, emotional, financial, or physical growth on this Lenten journey. Enjoy the season!

During the months of March-April
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=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09)
[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09)

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

The St. John AME Military Ministry

The St. John AME Military Ministry will meet on the first
Thursday of each month via ZOOM, beginning in February.
Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Point of contact: Sister Felicia Carter, 256-529-2667

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NlUTNObkZxVjR4WlR3NXZ09)
[pwd=c2NlUTNObkZxVjR4WlR3NXZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NlUTNObkZxVjR4WlR3NXZ09)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993
Passcode: S1a1rF

One tap mobile
+19292056099,73469179993#,,,078010# US (New York)
+13017158592,73469179993#,,,078010# US
(Washington D.C.)

Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993
Passcode: 078010
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbtAXWp2D>

Young People's Division



**"Growing, Glowing and
Going for Christ"**

St. John AME Church
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President
Young People's Division
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director

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.**

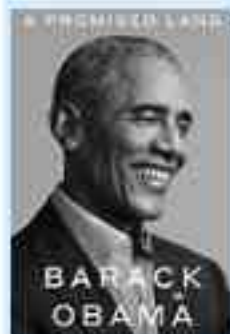


Church School Book Club

February 2021

Discussion Date: February 20, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

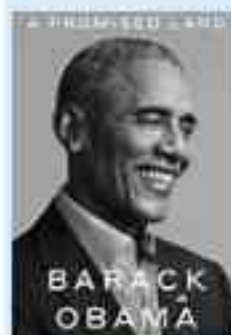
A Promised Land, Obama, Barack, 2020.



The February book club discussion will cover Parts 1, 2, & 3.

March 2021

Discussion Date: March 20, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.



The March Book Club discussion will cover Parts 4, 5, 6, & 7.

Reading gives us
some place to go
when we have to stay
where we are.

—Mason Cooley—



Young Readers' Café

Editor's Favorites



Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain

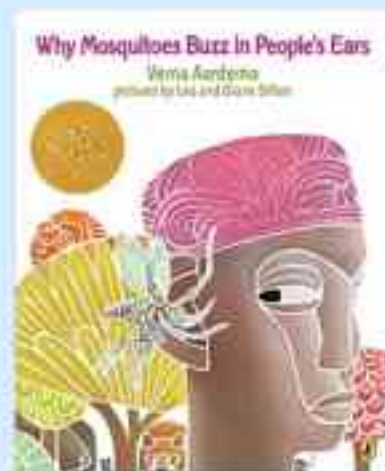
By

Verna Aardema

Illustrations by

Beatriz Vidal

(5 to 8 year olds)

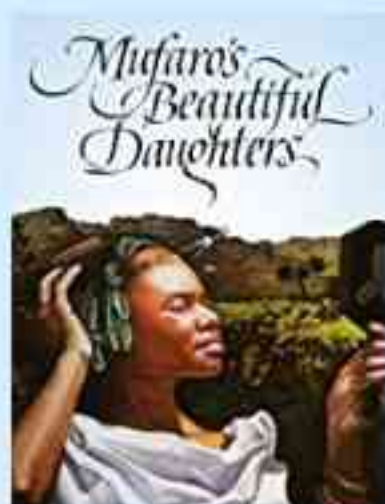


Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears

by

Verna Aardema

Illustrations by
Leo and Diane Dillon
(5 to 9 year olds)



Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

By

John L. Steptoe
Author and Illustrator

(4 to 8 year olds)

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** 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	_____

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						Communion Element Pick-up 10:00-12:00 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	10:00 a.m. Fifty Plus Meeting 5:00 p.m. History Makers Ministry 6:00 p.m. CPR Ministry		6:00 p.m. Bible Study			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship 136th Church Anniversary Ground Breaking		11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	6:00 p.m. Bible Study			10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club First Day of Spring 
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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. WMS Meeting
28	29	30	31			
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Palm Sunday 			6:00 p.m. Bible Study			
Holy Week 						

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

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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

Important Dates to Remember

- March 1, 2021, 10:00 a.m. The monthly meeting of The 50+ Auxiliary via ZOOM.
- March 14, 2021, 10:00 am, 136th St. John AME Church Anniversary Worship Service
- March 14, 2021, 2:00 p.m. Groundbreaking for the new St. John AME Church Edifice
4600 Blue Spring Road, Huntsville, AL 35810
- March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday through April 2, 2021 Holy Week
- April 2, 2021, Good Friday
- April 4, 2021 Resurrection Sunday



INDNJC

ST. JOHN A.M.E.N. NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church
Volume 26 Issue 3

Huntsville, Alabama
March 2021

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church
136th Church Anniversary

St. John A.M.E. Church 1900 to 1971



St. John A.M.E. Church, 1971 to Present



The Future St. John A.M.E. Church



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Celebrating 136 Years of Worship

The History of St. John AME Church

And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church," Matthew 16:18

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 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 recognized 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 St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Florence, AL, in 1878, currently known as Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church. 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 Albert Hyche.



Dr. William Hooper Council, Founder of St. John AME Church

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 1990 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.



The Reverend S. S. Hereford



The Reverend Dr. Homer L. McCall



The Reverend Dr. Patrick Clayborn



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II

(Continued on page 3)

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church Celebrating 136 Years of Worship

(Continued from page 2)



The plaque listing the members of the 1971 Building Committee for the second St. John A.M.E. Church at 229 Church Street.

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. Five 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 making plans for future use of this property. Strong emphasis is placed on the WORD-through preaching, teaching and Christian living.

St. John's motto is *"Sharing the Word... Serving the People."*



The original cornerstone of the first St. John A.M.E. Church built at 217 Church Street in 1900.



St. John A.M.E. Church
Historical Marker
Installed on the 135th Church Anniversary
Sunday, March 17, 2020

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church Celebrated Its 136th Church Anniversary

Brother Bobby Adkins



The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright,
Bishop of the Ninth Episcopal District

With much anticipation, excitement, passion and great energy, St John AME celebrated its 136th Church Anniversary on Sunday, March 14, 2021. The annual service served as a continuing testament to the power of praise and the collective love St. John members have for the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Though attendance was limited inside the church due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the celebration was lively, with enthusiastic and anointed praise, to include the online audience of worshipers. Online attendees provided social media commentary filled with love and praise for St. John and thoughts on the influence of the AME church in the Greater Huntsville Metro area, as well as throughout the South Birmingham – Bessemer District of the AME church.

From the outset, the service and those on program provided a spiritual spark and infectious spirit to the proceedings. Dr. Pamela Whitehead opened the event with a reading of announcements, followed by the St. John Praise Team performing a stirring rendition of "God's Grace", led by the powerful vocals of Sister Rosemary Wells. The Reverend Charles Glover inspired the worshipers with a powerful prayer, providing encouragement and lifting the Lord's name in praise. Steward Marcus Hill's reading of God's Word from the Book of Numbers, Chapter 13, verses 30-33 was inspirational.

Pastor Maurice Wright, II introduced Presiding Elder, Bruce W. Hunter, sharing several moments that he and the Presiding Elder shared over the past year. The St. John AME family received Presiding Elder Hunter with rousing applause. Presiding Elder Hunter reflected on the circumstances faced one year ago as COVID-19 restrictions were starting to take hold. He emphasized how the COVID orders changed life as everyone knew it dramatically, as well as, how everyone has seen both trial and tribulation during this difficult period. Presiding Elder reminded everyone that, "God brought us through because of His Grace and Mercy."

Presiding Elder Hunter stated that the South Birmingham – Huntsville District theme for the Conference year is *Back to the Future*. He mentioned that it is a great way to celebrate by having the 133rd elected and consecrated Bishop of the AME church lead in the groundbreaking of the new church. He then introduced Bishop Harry L. Seawright.

Prior to the Bishop taking the pulpit, the St John AME Praise Team, with Sister Lula Rochelle as the lead vocalist, performed a rousing selection titled, "God Is!" As the Praise Team sang the words, "God is the Joy and the Strength of my life" you could sense the Holy Spirit moving in a mighty way. "God is my ALL and ALL!! Hallelujah!"

Prior to the Bishop taking the pulpit, the St John AME Praise Team, with Sister Lula Rochelle as the lead vocalist, performed a rousing selection titled, "God Is!" As the Praise Team sang the words, "God is the Joy and the Strength of my life" you could sense the Holy Spirit moving in a mighty way. "God is my ALL and ALL!! Hallelujah!"

With an infectious smile, Bishop Seawright proceeded to the pulpit and greeted the St John family. He then reflected on his selection of Pastor Wright to lead the St. John family almost five-years ago. While attending the Annual Conference, he watched Pastor Wright direct the AME Connection Children's Choir. Right then the Lord spoke to him and he knew that the Reverend Maurice Wright, II was the right person to lead the St. John family. Speaking with excitement, the bishop shared as to how excited persons across the connectional church in Alabama are thrilled about the new St John AME Cathedral; a first of its kind in the state. With that Bishop Seawright presented the theme for the sermon, *Do You See What I See?*

The idea of building a new church is a wonderful reflection of God and His creativity. God is always doing something new. God allows us to do so many things anew. Bishop mentioned how we have the ability to be in fellowship and know that technology allows us to connect by the Spirit. It is a reflection of how God uses constraints like COVID as tools to help us grow. Bishop Seawright reminisced about all the pastors that had previously served St. John, speaking specifically of Dr. William

(Continued on page 5)

St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church Celebrated Its 136th Church Anniversary

Brother Bobby Adkins

(Continued from page 4)

Hooper Council and the Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall.

Per his sermon title, Bishop stated that, "Without a vision the people will perish, but with a vision the people will prosper." The vision of Pastor McCall many years ago included the acquisition of the land where the new St. John AME Cathedral would stand.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Bishop Seawright stressed to the members, "Don't forget who brought you! Still give God the Holy Glory that He deserves." He said, "You'll have agitators and doubters. Don't let them stop you!" Bishop reflected upon his own experience raising a new church in the early 1990s. The following year, after moving in, folks started to doubt, saying they did not want to be around when things failed. But, God made a way anew, raising up new folks to catch the vision of the new church and to support the work in resources and in prayers. God made a way!

Bishop drew parallels to when Moses asked 12 men to cross over the Jordan River and enter into the land of Canaan to inspect the surroundings and to observe what they would face if they crossed over. Of the 12, only Caleb and Joshua returned with a positive review. Unafraid, they told Moses they believed they could succeed on the other side. Caleb was unafraid to speak for the minority. Bishop inspired the congregation by saying, "It's a privilege to be able to speak for the minority. Thank God for the minority report!" If you stand up to defend a minority report and have the Lord with you, God will make a way. He will make it so.

Though the land was provided and the minority report was read, God still did not think it was the right time for the Israelites to cross over. They had to wait until the right time. As such, though the land for the new St. John AME Cathedral was purchased long ago, the time according to God's plan, was not right. There was a period to wait upon the Lord. Just as Moses was no longer alive when the Israelites crossed over into Canaan, Pastor McCall is no longer present as preparations are made to move into the new church. One plants, one waters, but God gives the increase. God had to wait on the right group of folks to gain the vision; folks who would move on the vision.

Thank God for those that look for something new; that are not afraid to provide the minority report, and who know to wait upon the Lord for the right time.

Bishop Seawright concluded his message by instructing the St. John family to "Hold On!"

- ◊ Stay on your knees!
- ◊ Pray for the Pastor and his family!
- ◊ Keep on making your sacrifices!
- ◊ Keep on paying your tithes!
- ◊ Don't let nobody talk you out of your dreams and your vision!
- ◊ There is no reason to doubt God.

With a fired-up congregation, Bishop closed saying "With a 65th birthday arriving on March 16th, God has been so good to me!" Pastor Wright stepped forth, keeping the moment alive by leading the congregation in singing, *I Will Trust in the Lord*. The doors to the church were opened with the invitation to Christian Discipleship. Finally, the Pastor spoke passionately about giving with a cheerful heart and invited members to continue supporting the efforts of the building fund.

Bishop Seawright offered the benediction, encouraging the St. John family and thanking Pastor Wright for the opportunity to preach on a most joyous 136th church anniversary.

Ground Breaking for the new St. John AME Church Edifice.

B. Johnson

**"Break new ground. Plant righteousness, and harvest the fruit that your loyalty will produce for me.
It's time to seek the Lord!" Hosea 10:12**

The land had been cleared. The congregation assembled on the site of the new St. John AME Church on the occasion of the 136th church anniversary to break the ground. After a joyous worship service, preached by the Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District, the congregation proceeded to the site of the groundbreaking. All city, county and state dignitaries were present, as well as, ministers and clergy from neighboring churches. As a hush fell over the crowd, Pastor Wright approached the podium and lead the assembly in *"We've Come This Far By Faith."* Everyone joined in. Here are just a few pictures which captured the celebration on Sunday, March 14, 2021.



Land being cleared, Jan. 15, 2021



Preparation for Ground Breaking



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II



Ministerial Representation

L. to R. Mr. Matthew Seawright, the Reverend Joseph Hall, Presiding Elder Gloria Hall, Presiding Elder Bruce Hunter, Pastor Wright, Bishop Seawright, Presiding Elder (Ret.) Allen, Sister Lillie Rivers, the Reverend Justin York and the Reverend Charles Glover.



The Building Committee

Back : Pastor Wright, Claudinette Fears, Jesse Johnson, Rufus Gilmore, Presiding Elder (Ret.) Oliver Allen, Bill Williams
Front: Adrienne Washington, Chairperson, Martine Hill, Clifton Miller and Pamela Whitehead.

L. to R.
Dr. Andrew
Hugine, Jr.,
President Ala-
bama A&M Uni-
versity,
Bishop Seawright
and Pastor
Wright.



The Board of Trustees

Represented by
Brother Darwin Washington

Ground Breaking for the new St. John AME Church Edifice.

B. Johnson



Dr. William Hooper Council,
Founder of St. John AME
Mr. William Hampton,
Impersonator



The Legacy
Madison McCall, granddaughter of the
late, Reverend Dr. Homer McCall,
Pastor Wright and Bishop Seawright.



The Board of Stewards
St. John AME Church



St. John AME Stewardess Board



St. John AME Women's Missionary Society

Members Participating in the Ground Breaking



Women in History: Celebrating Captain (Ret.) Gail Harris

Tami McGhee

"History has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own."
Former First Lady Michelle Obama

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States (US) since 1987. It is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history. Captain Gail Harris has an extensive and rewarding naval and post-naval history.

Gail Harris was born on June 23, 1949, in East Orange, New Jersey, to James and Lena Harris, and grew up in Newark, New Jersey, along with her younger brother, James Jr., and younger sister, Annette. After high school she attended Drew University, in Madison, New Jersey, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1971. In 1983, she earned a master's degree in International Studies at the University of Denver's Graduate School of International Studies (now the Josef Korbel School of International Studies), where former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was her classmate. Gail has also studied in the United Kingdom, Brussels and Belgium.



Captain (Ret.) Gail Harris

Gail's dream was born at age five while watching the 1944 film, *Wing and a Prayer*. Don Ameche, who portrayed a commander in the film, gave an intelligence briefing detailing the capabilities of the Japanese forces they were up against when the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier moved toward the Battle of Midway in the aftermath of the Pearl Harbor attack. Gail told her father, "Daddy that's what I'm going to do when I grow up." His encouraging response was, "This is America. You can be whatever you want."

Gail entered the US Navy on May 16, 1973, and was commissioned through Officer Candidate School, in Newport, Rhode Island. After an esteemed 28-year career in naval intelligence, she retired in 2001 as the highest-ranking African American female in the US Navy at the time of her retirement.

Her accomplishments in the US Navy include many trailblazing firsts, breaking ground for women and African Americans in the military.

- ◆ In October 1973, she was chosen to be the test case for women in Naval Operational Aviation Squadron, where she served as the air intelligence officer for Patrol Squadron 47 at Moffett Field, California. This was her first assignment.
- ◆ At the end of 1976, she was requested by name to report to Kamiseya, Japan, to the Fleet Ocean Surveillance Information Facility and became the first female and African American female to be designated an Intelligence Watch Specialist in the US Navy as an Intelligence Watch Officer.
- ◆ In April 1979, Gail Harris became the US Navy's first female and African American instructor at the Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center at Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado. There she built up the US Navy's first course on ocean surveillance information systems and taught the Anti-Submarine Warfare and Soviet Surface Operations courses.
- ◆ In 1984, Gail was one of the first two women assigned to the Office of Naval Intelligence's War Gaming Team Detachment at the Naval War College, and she was chosen to be commander of the Soviet Union's Theater military forces, twice during the Global War Games.
- ◆ In 1988, Gail was requested by name to coordinate the Defense Department's Intelligence support for the 1988 Olympics

(Continued on page 9)

Women in History: Celebrating Captain (Ret.) Gail Harris

Tami McGhee

(Continued from page 8)

In Seoul, South Korea.

- ◆ In 1989, she was selected to head the Intelligence Department for Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two, in Rota, Spain, becoming the first female and African American to do so in the US Navy's largest Aviation Squadron. The mission was for the squadron to support US military and aircraft carrier operations with intelligence reports during the Gulf War.
- ◆ From 1992 through 1996 she served in the Middle East as the Intelligence Planner for the Commander of US Naval Forces Central Command where she also headed the US Navy's Iraqi Crisis Action Cell and Intelligence Watch Center during crisis operations in the Persian Gulf. She was also chosen to fill in as Acting Naval Attaché, Egypt, for a five-month period, becoming the first female attaché to a Middle Eastern country.
- ◆ For her last assignment, she was selected to develop intelligence policy for computer network defense and computer network attack for the Department of Defense.

After retiring from the Navy in 2001, Gail worked for Lockheed Martin as an intelligence subject matter expert from 2002 to 2006. She is currently a consultant, speaker and writer for various organizations nationwide. Gail is a role model for both military and civilian women and men.

Gail has always loved music. While in the Navy, during her assignment in Spain, she volunteered as a DJ for the Armed Forces Radio and TV Network. Shortly after she moved to Durango, Colorado in 2006 she continued to pursue her passion for music and became a DJ at the local KDUR radio station. For more than ten years, her show, *Fire and Rain*, played on KDUR 91.9 on Wednesdays at 6 PM. In 2019, she decided to study composition at The Julliard School in New York City so she could write music for her own Broadway-style musical.

In 2020 when the nation's racial tensions resulted in protests after the deaths of several African Americans at the hands of police, Gail began consulting with the Durango Police Department on solutions. She was invited to join the Durango Police Department's diversity, equity and inclusion group, an informal group offering the department feedback about hiring, promotion and recruitment practices.

Gail is the author of many publications, including her memoir, *A Woman's War*, published in 2010 by Scarecrow Press, Inc. Gail is the cousin of St. John member, Tami McGhee.

Article Sources:

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gail_Harris_\(naval_officer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gail_Harris_(naval_officer))

https://gailharrisspeaker.com/gail_bio.html

<https://limacharlienews.com/veterans/captain-gail-harris/>

<https://durangoherald.com/articles/366328>

"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made."

The late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, (b.k.a. Notorious RBG.)

Kids' Corner

Vice President - Kamala Harris

Did you know?

- Kamala Harris is the first African-American, first woman and first Asian-American to become attorney general of California.

Did you know?

- Her name comes from the Sanskrit word meaning "lotus" flower.



Birth Place: Oakland, California
Born: October 20, 1964
Party: Democratic
Religion: Baptist
Husband's Name: Douglas Emhoff

Previous Office Held: United States Senator
Signature:

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[Pinterest post] Pinterest. Retrieved March 2021, from <http://pinterest.com>

AME Proud!

Black-Owned Business of the Month

Johnson Brothers Concrete Contractors, Inc.



Mr. Ollie Johnson,
Founder of JBCC

Johnson Brothers Concrete Contractors (JBCC) was born out of the desire to be self-sufficient and provide job opportunities for family members. Mr. Ollie Johnson established JBCC in 1960. He hired his brothers, James, Earl and Eddie Lee as his employees. His wife, Mrs. Mary Powers Johnson served as the bookkeeper and secretary. As the sons of Mr. Johnson (Jesse, Ronald and Angelo) became of age, they soon were incorporated into the business. The name changed to Johnson Brothers and Sons.

Mr. Ollie Johnson retired in the early 90's and left the thriving black-owned business to his three sons, with Jesse as the general manager. Mr. Jesse Johnson and his brother, Mr. Ronald Johnson had been working with their father since they were teenagers, so they were very familiar with the business and were prepared to carry on their father's legacy. The legacy of the company had always been to "give the customer more than what they expected," which is true to this day. The company returned to the original name and has been known once again as Johnson Brothers.



Mr. Jesse Johnson, G M
Johnson Brothers
Concrete Contractors, LLC

Over the years, JBCC has continued to provide structurally sound and attractive concrete projects. They specialize in drive-ways, side-walks, patios, swimming pool decks, curbs and gutters, and foundations. Their work ranges from small residential projects to large commercial jobs. JBCC has served the Huntsville-Madison County Community for over 61 years.

Visit the Johnson Brothers Concrete Contractors' Facebook page for samples of their work.

Mr. Jesse Johnson and his brother Mr. Ronald Johnson are members of St. John AME Church. Mr. Jesse Johnson serves as a Trustee, volunteers with the Soup Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, and is a member of the St. John Building Committee. Mr. Ronald Johnson serves on the church security team.

Huntsville-Madison County
Athletic Hall of Fame.
JBCC did the concrete structure
for the granite slabs and walk-
ways.



Concrete slab for the
installation of St. John's
Historical Marker



The Crematorium at
Meadowlawn Garden of Peace



We're Looking for You.

Are you a Black-owned business,
owned by a St. John member, that
has not been featured in the news-
letter? Please contact me at
bjohnson76aamu@gmail.com.

Congregational News

Congratulations Dr. Jeanette Jones!

Dr. Jeanette Jones is recognized as one of 1000 Inspiring Black Scientists in America. This is no surprise to us! She received the University Distinguished Professor designation in 2017 from AAMU, President Dr. Andrew Hugine and the University Trustees. In the university handbook, the designation of "Distinguished Professor" is bestowed upon scholars who have achieved highly eminent status within their discipline. Given Dr. Jones' prominence within the national STEM arena and longstanding commitment to scholarly inquiry and publications, stellar record of sponsored research programs, targeted mentoring of graduate students and junior faculty and service contributions toward the advancement of Alabama A & M University (AAMU), she is most deserving of this recognition.

Having earned her Ph.D. in Botany/Medical Mycology in 1976 from The Ohio State University, Dr. Jones is a veteran member of an extremely exclusive and very elite group of African American women in STEM—in a very real sense, Dr. Jones is AAMU's own Hidden Figure. Through the efforts of Dr. Jones and other women in STEM, the numbers of women entering STEM careers have increased over the years. Throughout her 45 years of service to AAMU, Dr. Jones has taught, funded and mentored countless students and junior faculty. Her investment in the success of students and junior faculty has resulted in the successful matriculation of students through doctoral programs and medical schools and their subsequent entry into meaningful careers in the STEM disciplines.



Dr. Jeanette Jones,
One of 1000 Inspiring Black
Scientists in America

Women's Ministry Events

Sponsored by the Reverend Joratha W. Wright

Virtual 90 Day Breakaway

THREE DAYS TO CLEAR THE SLAVE LEAVE OUR CONCERNS AT THE THRESHOLD AND FOCUS OURS ON OURSELVES, ON YOURSELF FOR SELF

LET'S BREAK AWAY!

HOST: JYNTIA MITCHELL-BLACKWELL, CEO

MARCH 26
MARCH 28

RSVP AT [BIT.LY/VIRTUAL90DAYBREAKAWAY](https://bit.ly/virtual90daybreakaway)

PRAISE AND PRAISE

7 APRIL @ 8 pm est

WOMEN'S MINISTRY PRESENTS @GREATHERHSV

See the Wrights: HHSV
Real Love

FIRST FRIDAY

VIRTUAL GIRLS NIGHT IN!

Creative background competition
Lots of fun and inspirational conversations
Themed snacks and drinks

for more information contact
greatherhsv@gmail.com

Highlighting Our Youth

Lydia Owens



Zariah York

Zariah York

Zariah York is a 5th grader at Providence Elementary School. She enjoys science and mathematics. This year has been very challenging for all students during this pandemic, Zaria would rather be on a hybrid schedule, but understands the importance of virtual learning for the safety of herself and others.

Zaria is actively engaged in the Young People's Division at St. John AME Church.

She is the daughter of the Reverend Justin York and Ms. Jakeyah Williams.



Janise Burns

Janise Burns

Janise Burns is an 11th grader at Huntsville High School. Her favorites subjects are history and biology. She would like to attend a four-year university and study occupational therapy. She is active at her school where she is the goalkeeper on the Huntsville High Junior Varsity Team. She also plays soccer for a community league, NASC Gravity Soccer Club.

Janise is currently enrolled in the virtual school, but feels strongly that teenagers need the interaction with others and especially their peers.

Janise is the daughter of Ms. Janel Williams and the sister to Jared Burns.

Thank You

Pastor Wright, officers, boards, organizations, and church family,

Your calls, cards, words of encouragement, thoughts and prayers sustained us during the home going of our uncle, Mr. Monroe Powers, Jr.

It's been a challenging year, but through it all the St. John family has always been there to comfort and support our family.

Your care and concern for us has been greatly appreciated and will always be remembered.

In Christian Love,
Mrs. Janice Johnson Hereford,
Jesse, Barbara and Ronald Johnson
and Deaconess Mary Powers

Thank You

To our church family,
We are so thankful to be a part of a loving church family. St. John your embracing and compassionate spirit has been a blessing to our family. Thank you so much for your prayers as we grieved the loss of our beloved grandmother. We take comfort in knowing she is resting in the arms of our Lord and Savior.

Best regards,
Curtis, Stephanie & Family



Tribute to Col. (Ret.) Earnest Charles (E. C.) Smith, Sr.

B. Johnson

St. John's "Hidden Figure"



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Mrs. Bessie Smith and Colonel (Ret.) Earnest Charles (E.C.) Smith on the occasion of the 134th Church Anniversary. Colonel (Ret.) Smith was recognized as the last remaining member of the 1971 St. John AME Church Building Committee.

Colonel Earnest Charles (E. C.) Smith, Sr. transitioned this life on February 13, 2021. He was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1950. Col. Smith served on active duty in the United States Army during the Korean War in 1953 and joined the Army Reserve afterwards. Col. Smith earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from the University of Arkansas in Pine Bluff in 1956. During the period 1956 to 1963, Smith taught 12th grade Mathematics at the same school from which he graduated. In 1963, he accepted a National Science Foundation Fellowship which he used to complete a Master of Science Degree in Mathematics from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 1964.

In 1964, Col. Smith was recruited to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama where he took a position as aerospace engineer in the Astrionics Laboratory. There, he performed analyses and evaluations of the guidance, control, and navigations systems for the Saturn launch vehicles for the Skylab Program. He also was instrumental in the development and verification of the navigation system of the Lunar Roving Vehicle.

Over a long and illustrious career, Col. Smith earned many awards. He received the NASA Exceptional Service Medal in 1972 for significant personal contributions to the theoretical development, practical implementation, and operational support of the navigation systems for the Lunar Roving Vehicle on the Apollo 16 Mission, as well as several commendations and the astronaut's Snoopy Award.

Col. Smith, later assumed a Senior Executive Service position as the Director of the Astrionics Laboratory at the Marshall Flight Center in Huntsville until his retirement in 1999. Col. Smith remained in the Army Reserve during his tenure at NASA and retired as a Colonel that same year. In total, Col. Smith worked at NASA for 35 years and served in the Army Reserve for 33 years.

Upon arriving in Huntsville in 1964, he, his wife and three sons at the time, joined St. John AME Church under the leadership of the Reverend S. S. Hereford. Col. Smith served for many years as an adult Sunday School teacher, a Steward and a Trustee. Col. Smith was the youngest member of the building committee tasked with building a new St. John AME Church at 229 Church Street. The church was completed in the spring of 1971. He remained a member of St. John for many years. He later became a member of The Walking on Water Christian Ministry Church in Birmingham, Alabama where his son, the Reverend Dr. Kamie Smith is the minister.

Colonel Smith is survived by his wife of 68 years, Mrs. Bessie Matlock Smith. He also leaves to cherish his memory, four sons: LT. Colonel (Ret.) Earnest Smith Jr., Major (Ret.) Keith Smith, Reverend Dr. Kamie Smith and Dr. Cydale Smith; eight grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

"Well done, good and faithful servant" Matthew 25:21

Church School Lesson Overview – April 2021

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer

April 4, 2021

Lesson Title: The Suffering Servant Brings Salvation

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Luke 24:1-35

Print: Isaiah 53:4-11 (end with "light")

Devotional Songs: #156[], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "But He was wounded for our transgression, crushed for our iniquities upon Him was the punishment that made us whole, and by His bruises we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

This week's lesson highlights Isaiah, also known as the Messianic prophet. He foretold the life and death of Jesus Christ. Isaiah believed this applied to the situation that the Israelites found themselves in, mainly devastation destruction and exile.

It has been thought that the Book of Isaiah is believed to have been written possibly by one or more prophets who lived about 700 years before the birth of Christ. The 6th chapter is where his calling by God recorded and occurred the year that King Uzziah died.

April 11, 2021

Lesson Title: Ezra: Faith and Action Preacher

Lesson Scripture: Ezra 9-10

Print: Ezra 10:1-12

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

Key Verse: "O my God, I am too ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens" (Ezra 9:6).

In this week's lesson Ezra is presented. He confronted the disobedience of the Israelites' intermarrying with foreign women. The people realized they had made a serious error and corrected their wrong.

Ezra got their attention by wearing a cloak of shame for the people. His anguish is clearly shown by his actions. Ezra garnered the attention of women, men, and children. This formed a stage where he could point out the extent of the people's situation and its consequences.

April 18, 2021

Lesson Title: Nehemiah: The Captive Cupbearer Rebuilds a Nation

Lesson Scripture: Nehemiah 2:11-20, 13:1-22

Print: Nehemiah 2:11-20

Devotional Songs: #525[], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace" (Nehemiah 2:17).

The lesson looks at Nehemiah, who is the king of Persia's cupbearer. The Israelites have been in exile for several generations and this is likely the only life known to him. Still, however, Nehemiah had a love for God and for his roots.

Nehemiah used his connection with the king when he returned home. After returning home he learned of the failed efforts to rebuild the city walls of Jerusalem by the returning Jews. Yes, this confirms the "It's who you know," saying, because the king granted resources to Nehemiah to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild/repair the wall surrounding the city.

April 25, 2021

Lesson Title: A Plea for Restoration

Lesson Scripture: Lamentations 5

Print: Lamentations 5

Devotional Songs: #97[], #321[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored; renew our days as of old" (Lamentations 5:21).

This week's lesson highlights Jeremiah, who is believed to be the writer of Lamentations at the base of Golgotha in a cave. Golgotha is recognized as the hill of Jesus' crucifixion. Jeremiah expressed the peoples' grief for the losses of several things: life, property, status and God's presence in their lives.

The author of the commentary described Lamentations as a compilation of thoughts and prayers, expressing the emotional strain that happens when witnessing the suffering and evil in the world. Jeremiah wept over the plight of his people and became known as the weeping prophet.

Romans 15:4

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Kids' Corner

Nehemiah



BLESSED
CLAVE
CORN
DAUGHTERS
DUNG GATE
ESCAPED
FEIGNEST
FIGHT
FISH GATE
FLED
GLORIOUS
GOD

GOVERNOR
GRIEVED
HEAVY
HOUSE
ISRAFI
JERUSALEM
JEWS
JOY
KING
MYRI LE
OATH

PINE
PREY
PRIEST
READ
REBEL
SAND BALLAT
SCORN
SHEEP GATE
SLAY
SOLEMN
SORROW

THANKSGIVINGS
TILLAGE
TOBIAH
VALLEY GATE
VEXED
VICTUALS
VILLAGES
VINEYARDS
WELFARE
WEPT
WRATH
WROTH

Copyright 2008 John R. Potter John's Word Search Puzzles
<http://www.thepotters.com/puzzles.html>

[Pinterest post] Pinterest. Retrieved March 2021, from <http://pinterest.com>

Young People's Division



"Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

A Message from the YPD
Director, Mrs. Deidre Walton

- Special acknowledgements to the February, Moments in Black History participants, Samantha Adkins, Anthony and Jessica Harbin, Eddie and Kimberly Whitehead and Zaria York. Job well done! Thank You!

◆ Happy Birthday to Bishop Seawright from the St. John A.M.E. YPD!

- NWAC YPD is seeking volunteers for virtual tutoring on Tuesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Grades K-5 for Reading, Writing and Math. If interested contact the following persons:

Mary Wells Porter, 2nd Vice President
(205-344-3358) or email: MWP1200@gmail.com

- Upcoming YPD Events
 - March 25-28 Connectional YPD Leadership Training (Virtual) (Zoom credentials to come)
 - March 29 Virtual YPD Executive Board Meeting (YPD Directors) (Zoom credentials to come)



• Contact Mrs. Walton at deetergatesjones@gmail.com, stypdhsv@gmail.com, or (703-772-1121).

0-6 (2-5) 17 (20) 45 (20) 70

St. John AME Church
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President
Young People's Division
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director

Brother Hodges Washington, President



Church School Book Club

April 2021

Discussion Date: April 17, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Broken Spirit,
Jackson-Beavers, Rose, 2018.

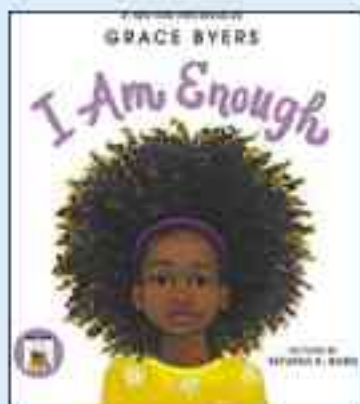


Stephanie Whitmore had it all together. A young, wealthy businesswoman, with a sexy, and positive attitude, engaged to a man. Women salivated to spend time in his company. Donnie Johnson, an all-American, successful computer analyst with a passion for mentoring troubled youth, loved women. After a long business trip, Stephanie arrived a day early to Donnie's home to find her fiancé in a compromising position. With thoughts of suicide dancing in her head, and an evil voice encouraging her to kill herself, nothing could satisfy the pain in her heart but death. But God had other plans for her life, and once she listened to His voice, her life would be forever changed.

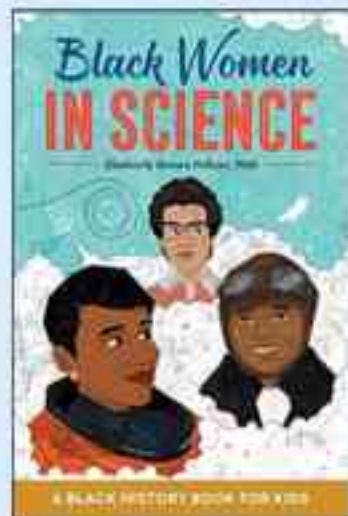
Pastor Daniel Winston served as the pastor of a large church in an urban community. A single man who longed to find a wife stayed in prayer asking God to bless him. When Stephanie rushed into his church covered in blood, he wanted to help her. When their hands touched, he experienced a spark that would ignite a fire in his heart so deep, he almost became blind to her issues and couldn't determine if he was trying to help her or himself. But when God is involved, nothing is as it seems and with His plans, the road to redemption may be rough, but the results so fulfilling.

—Amazon

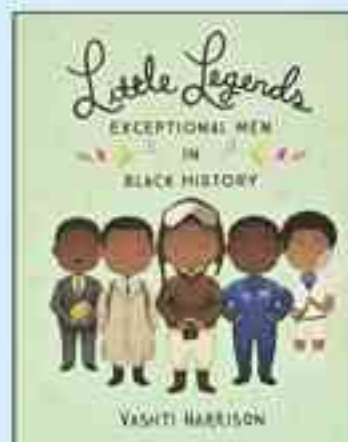
Young Readers' Café Editor's Favorites



Grace Byers
And
Keturah A. Bobo



Kimberly Brown
Peltum, Ph. D.



Vashti Harrison
And
Kwesi Johnson

Military Ministry News



29 March 2021- Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day

On March 29, 2012, President Barack Obama proclaimed March 29, 2012, as Vietnam Veterans Day. The proclamation called "upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that commemorate the 50 - year anniversary of the Vietnam War."

On Behalf of a Grateful Nation, Thank you for your Service and Sacrifice!

Viet Nam Veteran Recognition



Robert B.
Hereford, Sr.

The St. John AME Military Ministry recognizes, the Reverend (Ret.) Robert B. Hereford Sr., a Vietnam Veteran, who helped launch the Military Ministry at St. John AME Church in 2013.

Please join me in thanking the men and women who served with valor and honor during the Vietnam War Era. They returned home to a hostile nation. Veterans if you served in Vietnam and have certain health conditions, Veteran Affairs (VA) has created a presumptive list of conditions / illnesses related to exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides. Laws have been passed to compensate you for your exposure. We honor you and your families for your unwavering service and sacrifice. May God Bless you, your families, and the United States of America. —LTC. (Ret.) Felicia Carter, US Army

The St. John AME Military Ministry

The St. John AME Military Ministry will meet on the first Thursday of each month via ZOOM, beginning in February. Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Point of contact: Sister Felicia Carter, 256-529-2667

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=czNIUTNQNkZxVk4wIlrbXdkTm9oZz09>

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 51a1rF

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,73469179993#,,,078010# US (New York)

+13017158592,,73469179993#,,,078010# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 078010

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993>



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](#) 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.

Bible Study each Wednesday evening via ZOOM.
ZOOM Link is sent out to the congregation on email.



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	+ Check each box that applies <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>☐ Tithes</td><td>Amount _____</td></tr> <tr><td>☐ Offering</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>☐ Benevolence</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>☐ Sunday School</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>☐ Soup Kitchen</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>☐ Daniel Payne</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>☐ Building Project</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>☐ Holiday Food Box</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>☐ Other</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>_____</td></tr> </table>	☐ Tithes	Amount _____	☐ Offering	_____	☐ Benevolence	_____	☐ Sunday School	_____	☐ Soup Kitchen	_____	☐ Daniel Payne	_____	☐ Building Project	_____	☐ Holiday Food Box	_____	☐ Other	_____	TOTAL	_____
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Name _____																								
Address _____																								
City _____	State _____	Zip _____																						
Phone _____	Email _____																							
Cash Amount _____	Check Amount _____	☐ Verified																						

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
Palm Sunday 		Holy Week Daniel Fast 		Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Communion Element Pick up 10:00-12:00 pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Resurrection Day Communion Sunday AMEN Deadline	10:00 a.m. Fifty Plus Meeting via ZOOM 5:00 p.m. History Makers Ministry 6:00 p.m. CPR Ministry		6:00 p.m. Bible Study			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship		Happy Birthday Rev. Maurice Wright, II	6:00 p.m. Bible Study			10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship		11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	6:00 p.m. Bible Study			10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting
25	26	27	28	29	30	
8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship		11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN				

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

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

Important Dates to Remember

- ♦ Sunday, March 28, 2021, Palm Sunday
- ♦ Black History is 365 Days a Year. PBS Documentary. March 30th. *The Blinding of Isaac Woodard.*
- ♦ April is Month of the Military Child
- ♦ April 1st, Maundy Thursday
- ♦ April 2nd, Good Friday
- ♦ April 4th, Easter or Resurrection Sunday
- ♦ May 17, 2021, the new deadline for filing the 2021 taxes



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 26 Issue 4

April 2021

The Old Rugged Cross

George Bennard, b. 1873

George Bennard, b. 1873

1. On a hill far a-way
2. Oh, that old rug-ged cross,
3. In the old rug-ged cross,
4. To the old rug-ged cross

suf-fe-
trac-t
beau-t
proneh

at and best
ry a - bove
red and died
far a - way,

For a world of lost sin-ne:
To bear it to dark Ca
To par-don and sanc-ti
Where His glo-ry for-ev-er

I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged
cross, the

cross,..... Till my tro-
old rug-ged cross,

old rug-ged cross,.....
cross, the old rug-ged cro

lay - burn; I will cling to the

it some day for a crown.

Resurrection Sunday Meditation: The Old Rugged Cross

The Reverend Judith Gardner

There is a song titled, *He Grew the Tree*; I want to add, "God created that tree with its splinters and rugged edges just for me." As that tree lay flat on the ground, Jesus was nailed to it with outstretched arms, and when the tree stood upright, He hung, suffered, bled and died.

In 1913 George Bennard who had a desire to *become* an evangelist was having problems that caused him anguish. During his time of lament, he thought about Christ's suffering on the cross. It had been noted, while reading the Bible he focused on Philippians 3:10 and received the theme for a hymn that has *become* a favorite for many, The Old Rugged Cross.

Bennard desired becoming a presenter of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We all have a desire for '*becoming*' something in this life – whether it is being happy, prosperous, successful, or whatever, to exist in that which we desire to *become*. My desire in this journey of life is to make a positive difference in the lives of others and after accepting Jesus, I knew this was the way which God was leading me to *becoming* like Jesus.

However, studying Jesus' journey when He walked on earth and how He was treated during his last days, made me question and ask, "Did I sign up for this?" My new identity and desire to *become* like Christ includes His suffering, death and resurrection. Philippians 3:12-21, teaches us to keep our eyes on the goal. Paul's desire to share in Christ's suffering happened when he was imprisoned for Christ. He was imperfect and dissatisfied with his life but, he longed to *become* like Christ. Final perfection will not be achieved on this side of the grave, and until that time comes, we must press on, persevering in what the Lord has for us. As Christians we say like Paul, "I do not consider myself yet, to have it all together, or that I have made it but, I am on my way to *becoming*." So, I will cherish and cling to the Old Rugged Cross where Jesus suffered to pardon and sanctify me. Amen.



The Reverend Judith
Gardner, Pastor
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
Church in
Bermuda

The Reverend Judith Gardner is a member of St. Paul AME Church in Bermuda where she serves as the Executive Minister. She was ordained an Itinerant Elder in their 120th session of their Annual Conference of the AME Churches of Bermuda.

Reverend Judith is a graduate of Alabama A&M University, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Sociology, earning life membership in the National Honor Society in Psychology.

She further matriculated at Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta Georgia. She successfully completed the three- year *Master of Divinity (M.Div.)* Degree program within two years graduating with honors, with a concentration in Homiletics and Worship.

The Reverend Gardner has served in various facets of the church on the local and international levels, including Director of the Young People and Children's Division, Missionary, Evangelist, and the former host and coordinator of the Radio Broadcast, "*Tips for Teens*." The Reverend Gardner also served as the Associate Minister at St. John AME Church in Huntsville AL, Flipper Temple AME Church in ATL GA, Interim Pastor at Marsden First United Methodist Church and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Bermuda.



Community Engagement

B. Johnson

Knock COVID-19 Out!

St. John AME Church partnered with Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA) and Huntsville Hospital's COVID Clinics to provide the COVID Vaccine for members of each congregation. One clinic was held at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University and the second site was Church Street CPCA. Members from the church registered and showed up for their appointed time. The goal was to provide a vaccine for everyone who wanted one. All CDC protocols were followed: Everyone had to wear a mask, sanitize their hands and social distance. After receiving the vaccination, clients were instructed to wait 15 minutes before departing. The Pastor reported approximately fifty-four members, family members, and friends received vaccines at Church Street CPCA, and approximately one hundred persons received the vaccine at the Alabama A&M University site. St. John is "Knocking COVID-19 Out" one vaccination at a time.



Mr. & Mrs. Carl Lewis



Brother Jason Gilmore, Mr. & Mrs. Lomax and
The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Servant Pastor of St. John AME Church



Ms. Lessie Wright



Sister Scarlet Leonard



Sister Deborah Bland



Sister Claire Philadelphia and her father.

Never too Early to Register to Vote!

Bobby Adkins, II

Whew! Finally, the 2020 general election is in the rearview mirror. The 2021 runoff elections in our neighboring state of Georgia caught people's attention, taking the breath away from voters as the numbers were calculated. These were high stakes elections with Democracy on alert.

AMEs across the country went to the polls in record numbers, casting their votes in support of "a more perfect union". Though many battled long lines, COVID-19 restrictions and limited accessibility to the polls, democracy for many, prevailed.



Massive voter registration efforts took place, with St. John AME members leading the way. By most measures, election 2020 was a great success at both the state and national level. Now that the data has been archived, how did Alabama voters do? The takeaways are as follows:

- According to the office of the Alabama Secretary of State (SoS), voter turnout in 2020 reached a record number, with over 2.3 million eligible Alabama voters going to the polls in November 2020.
- Alabama 2020 general election voter turnout increased by greater than 300 thousand voters over the 2016 general election cycle.
- Though this number exceeded the primary election cycle, more than doubling turnout, it still means that another approximately 1.1 million eligible voters chose to pass on voting during the 2020 general election.
- Per the Alabama SoS office, 1,176,315 persons voted in the March 3, 2020 Primary Election, representing 33% of eligible voters.
- As such, this means approximately 2.35 million persons decided to stay home for the primary election season.

So, with all this increase in voter turnout, what is next?

Question:

- Did you decide not to vote in either or both the 2020 primary and general election?
- Were you eligible to vote?
- Did you miss a voter registration deadline?

If the answer was yes to any of the above, there should be an urgency to get started early and establish individual voting eligibility and get that registration taken care of well in advance of the next round of elections. Remember, it is never too early to register for the off-cycle elections, which consist of many state and local elections. Here are the procedures for getting it done.

To submit an application to register to vote, a person must meet the following requirements:

- An individual must be a citizen of the United States.

(Continued on page 5)

Never too Early to Register to Vote!

Bobby Adkins, II

(Continued from page 4)

- An individual must live in the State of Alabama.
- An individual must be at least 18 years of age on or before election day.
- An individual must not be barred from voting by reason of a disqualifying felony conviction.
- For a list of felony convictions that currently disqualify a person from voting, visit: [Updated Version of Moral Turpitude Crimes.pdf \(alabama.gov\)](#)
- An individual must not have been judged "mentally incompetent" in a court of law.

Please note, a person will be required to present valid photo identification when voting at the assigned polling place or by absentee ballot, unless exempted by law.

Also, during the 2020 election cycle, and with COVID-19 restrictions severely hampering travel and the ability to gather in close-quarters, relief was given by the SoS in relation to use of absentee ballots. For future elections, the traditional timelines and access to the ballot will likely be used, with COVID restrictions being eased so far in 2021.

For the 2021 election cycle, state and local election dates can be found at [2021 Election Information | Alabama Secretary of State](#). These dates are important to remember as there is a penalty to voters that skip a number of off-year elections. This inactivity may cause a person to be unregistered, with no method of awareness.

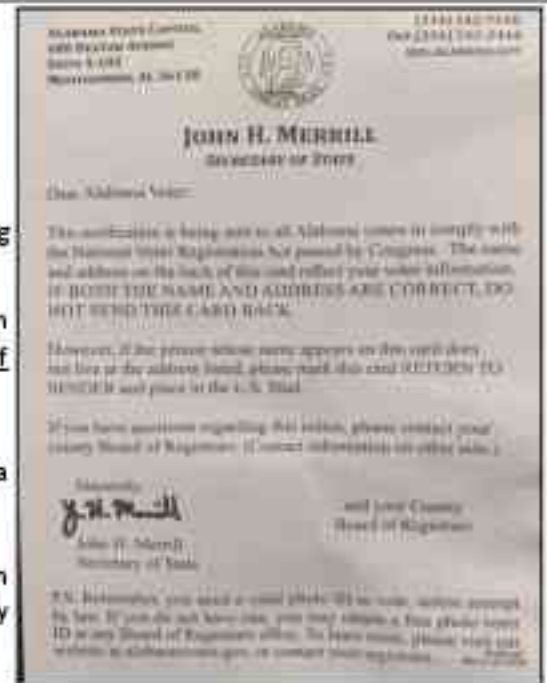
Note, if a person is a registered voter, be on the look-out for a voter verification card from the Alabama Secretary of State's Office. This card will arrive in your mailbox periodically. This writer received the card illustrated to the right in the mail during the month of March 2021.

The front and back of the card are previewed. As a reminder, the card will only be mailed to a person's home of record from which they most recently voted. The mailing address is on the back of the card.

Why is this relevant? Well, if a registered voter has moved since the last voting election, they will need to contact the Secretary of State's office to correct their mailing address and receive a new voter registration card. Do not rely on someone receiving a card in error and placing "Return to Sender" on it and placing it back in the mail box. Do the right thing by taking the lead and contact the SoS office.

For a complete listing of voting requirements, information on voter registration, and for updating your information, go to [Register to Vote / Update Your Information | Alabama Secretary of State](#).

The next round of elections will be underway in a matter of months, do not be left on the sidelines. Get in the game. VOTE....like your life depends on it. **IT DOES!**



2021 Alabama Voter Registration Verification Card (Front of Card)



2021 Alabama Voter Registration Verifi-

AME Proud!

Congratulations Dr. Kelsey Wilson!

Dr. Kelsey Wilson is a proud native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She is the daughter of Vonda James and Charles Wilson. Dr. Wilson is also a Licentiate in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Kelsey Wilson journeyed to Fargo, North Dakota in 2018 to work on her Doctor of Philosophy in Counselor Education and Supervision at North Dakota State University (NDSU). She reached her goal, which was to finish in 3 years. She learned counseling at an advance level to integrate faith in mental health. She further found a love of teaching at the graduate level, and had the honor to work in a church counseling center as a clinical intern.

Dr. Wilson was a graduate teaching assistant in the School of Education (2020) and graduate service assistant in the Student Activities Office (2019-2020) teaching NDSU fraternity and sorority members, how to cultivate their leadership style. Dr. Wilson believes that attending North Dakota State University was designed to purpose her calling in multiple facets in life established in the work of God, watching as God created paths of provision along the way. She remained mindful of the double conscious encounters she would face daily as a southern African American woman living in the Midwest region; however, God was ever present. Dr. Wilson transcended the many barriers with the help of God in prayer, following immediate action to accomplish several tasks with the unwavering support of her committee members, the Black Church in the Midwest and South, and those who could see to help accomplish this divine purpose.

In the journey she later learned she was the first African American woman to receive a PhD degree in Counselor Education and Supervision at North Dakota State University, and first black doctoral student to accomplish this degree in 3 years at a predominately white institution of higher education.

On March 24th, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. (CST), she defended her dissertation, entitled *"Professional Identity Development: Perceptions of African American Female Counselor Educators' Success in Ph.D. Degree Completion at Predominately White Institutions"*. Upon completion of her dissertation defense, her identity changed to Dr. Wilson!



Dr. Kelsey Wilson

Oh Happy Day!

Ms. Kathlyn Dulaney began her civil service career at US Army Aviation and Missile Command, AMCOM, (formerly US Army Missile Command, MICOM), Redstone Arsenal Alabama on January 3, 1983 as a Cooperative Education (Co-op) student from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL. Kathlyn's Co-op job was a testament that "God will pour out a blessing you will not have room enough to receive," as she received two equal job offers at the same time – one in Tuscaloosa and one in Huntsville. She began as a General Supply Student Trainee and retired as a Financial Management Analyst. Her long and rewarding career was never boring – supporting replenishment assets for the fielding and retiring of Missiles, Missiles System, and Aircraft Weapon systems was both challenging and rewarding.



Ms. Kathlyn Dulaney

Kathlyn was a dedicated and adaptable civil servant that excelled in any job assignment throughout many management, organizational, and command changes and restructuring as evident by exceptional annual performance ratings with awards each year for the past 30 years. Special awards consisted of Commander Coins, On-the-Spot Cash Awards, Time Off Awards, Special Acts or Special Service Awards, Quality Step Increases, Performance Awards, Civilian Service Achievement Medals, and a Meritorious Civilian Service Medal. Of all the awards Kathlyn received, she says the most rewarding was re-

(Continued on page 7)

AME Proud!

(Continued from page 6)

ceiving a simple thank you from a soldier especially a deployed soldier.

Kathlyn loved serving as a Department of Army civilian and strived to live the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage for 37 years, 9 months and 1 day.

Ms. Dulaney is a member of St. John AME Church, Huntsville where she serves as a Stewardess and a member of the Women's Missionary Society.



Welcome St. John's Newest Member!

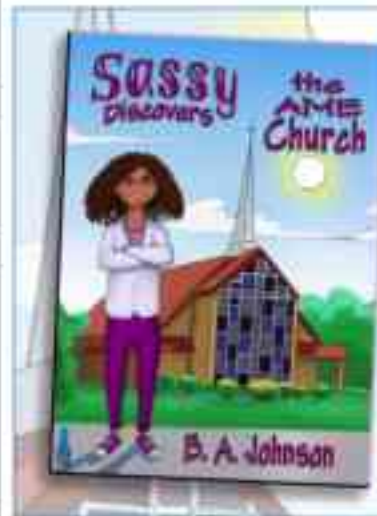
At the close of service, on Sunday, April 4, 2021, little Dakota Sherree Fitchard was baptized. Social distancing and all COVID protocols were observed during the baptism. Only the parent, grandparents, ministers, stewards and stewardesses were allowed to stand and witness the occasion. All other family members had to remain in their seats.



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Baby Dakota Sherree Fitchard, The Reverend Charles Glover, Deaconess Barnes-Mery, Mr. Earl Fitchard, Ms. Druscilla Fitchard, Mr. Rossi Henderson, Mrs. Deetra Fitchard, Stewardesses Gilmore and Myhand.

Sassy Discovers the AME Church

by B. A. Johnson



Young "Sassy" has always been proud to be AME, a member of her African Methodist Episcopal Church, but why? Sassy enjoys learning during the Children's Church group, but that new boy knows more about AME than she does! With help of her grandmother, "Big Momma," she discovers the real story behind the founding of the AME church. Along the way,

she and her friends and her brother, Franklin, deal with bullying, kindness, death, grief, pride, forgiveness, and the very ideas of fairness and including others. They also confront the harsh reality of prejudice and hatred when a gunman attacks the Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston.

In *Sassy Discovers the AME Church*, one little girl embraces the idea of belonging to something so important, and of proudly sharing her faith with everyone she loves.

Sassy Discovers the AME Church was written by Ms. Barbara Johnson, a lifelong member of St. John AME Church and the editor of the St. John AMEN.

Sassy Discovers the AME Church will be released on May 2, 2021 and can be found on Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.com, Books-a-Million, and World Press.

A book signing event was held at St. John AME Church, on May 1, 2021.



B. A. Johnson

Church School Lesson Overview – May 2021

The reviews were written by Brother Kenneth Parham

May 2, 2021

Lesson Title: Micaiah: Speaking Truth to Power

Lesson Scripture: 1 Kings 22:1-40

Print: 1 Kings 22:15-23, 26-28

Devotional Songs: #377[], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verse: Micaiah said, "As the Lord lives, whatever the Lord says to me, that I will speak" (1 Kings 22:14).

The background of this lesson indicates that King Jehoshaphat of Judah came to meet with King Ahab of Israel to devise a plan to invade Ramon-Gilead (in Syria). The king of Judah inquires if the King of Israel thought they could succeed. The King of Israel asks his four hundred hand-appointed prophets if the plan will be victorious. With a unanimous response the prophets indicate that the kings would succeed. The King of Judah then asks the King of Israel if he has chosen God's appointed prophet. The exchange of conversation and King Ahab's reaction is noted below.

Micaiah the prophet comes before the kings and King Ahab asks Micaiah if their plan will be victorious. Micaiah responds, "Yes." King Ahab asks Micaiah under oath; majority of the time Micaiah has prophesized defeat for King Ahab. Micaiah responds a second time that the plan will meet with disaster. Micaiah relays a vision from the Lord where there is a camp around the Lord and it is being discussed as to how to defeat King Ahab. Many suggestions are discussed but the one that the Lord agrees upon is to allow a lying spirit, that resides amongst the king's prophets, to provide counsel when the king is making major decisions. King Ahab responds by placing Micaiah in prison on reduced rations of bread and water until King Ahab returns. Micaiah's final words as he is led away is: "...if King Ahab returns it will not be the words spoken by the Lord to me."

May 9, 2021

Lesson Title: Isaiah: Offering Hope for the Future

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 29

Print: Isaiah 29:13-24

Devotional Songs: #464[], #251[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "And those who err in spirit will come to understanding, and those who grumble will accept instruction" (Isaiah 29:24).

Prophet Isaiah speaks on a future of hope via the promised one. The reviewer imagines that during this time the people have become so entrenched in the law that those worship-

ing God were only performing lip service; the purity of heart was absent. It became a standard practice where the created started to question the creator. The people of that time even thought and attempted to hide their plans from God; as if this was possible.

Isaiah prophesizes of a time of great wonders. A time where the deaf will hear and the blind will see. A time where the meek will increase their joy in the Lord and the poor will rejoice in the Holy One. And there will be peace and justice throughout the land. No longer shall Jacob be ashamed of his descendants; for he will see the work of Holy One in their midst and how they sanctify His name and fear the God of Israel.

May 16, 2021

Lesson Title: Jeremiah: The Suffering Preacher of Doom

Lesson Scripture: Jeremiah 37-38

Print: Jeremiah 38:14-23

Devotional Songs: #221[], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "If I tell you, you will put me to death, will you not? And if I give you advice, you will not listen to me" (Jeremiah 38:15).

In this lesson we encounter a conversation between King Zedekiah and the prophet Jeremiah. It appears that the king is in a dire situation where the forces of the king of Babylon is awaiting to invade the kingdom of Judah. The king arranges to meet with Jeremiah to inquire about his immediate future; being killed at the hands of the king of Babylon or by the Chaldeans. Prior to this meeting, the scriptures indicate that Jeremiah has been placed in several prisons and given limited rations of bread and water for speaking out against King Zedekiah and the people of Judah; for God had lost favor with His own. And before meeting with King Zedekiah, Jeremiah had to be brought out of mirk, which he had been suspended, at the current prison. The king asks Jeremiah as to how he can escape his predicament. Jeremiah indicates that no matter what he says, he will either be put to death or his advice will be ignored. The king swears that he will not allow Jeremiah to die but wants to hear what God has in store for the king. Jeremiah indicates that God has revealed to his prophet that if the king surrenders to the king of Babylon, the king of Judah will live and he will not be given over to the Chaldeans but if the king does not surrender the king (and his army) will die, the women and children taken captive and the city will be burnt to the ground by the Chaldeans.

(Continued on page 9)

Church School Lesson Overview – May 2021

(Continued from page 8)

After giving counsel to the King Zedekiah, it is noted in the scriptures that Jeremiah is returned to prison.

May 23, 2021

Lesson Title: Ezekiel: Street Preacher to the Exiles

Lesson Scripture: Ezekiel 18

Print: Ezekiel 18:1-9, 30-32

Devotional Songs: #77[]; #321[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4).

In this lesson, the prophet Ezekiel has a word from the Lord wondering why His children continue to repeat and live the words of the old proverb that indicates the parent eat sour grapes and the children's teeth are on edge.

A cross reference search of this proverb identified Exodus 20:5 as being one of the related scriptures that may have been crucial in the belief of the children of Israel. Not being a biblical scholar, it may be postulated that during biblical days, the children of Israel strictly followed the Law (also noted in the scriptures where the children of Israel were disobedient to God and the law). The Law was scripture that was passed down from generation to generation. And one of the earliest laws that was passed down was the Ten Commandments and in particular the one concerning God being a jealous god. Exodus 20:5 indicates anyone who worshipped idols or other gods, that God will visit iniquities of the father upon the third and fourth generations of those who hate Him.

But God indicates through Ezekiel that His people have taken His commandments out of context. Ezekiel relays that God loves all His children unconditionally; each person is accountable for his/her own actions and only those who sin shall die. God then relays a more updated set of commandments that if man follows as a righteous man, man surely will live. Highlighted laws noted are: Do not eat upon the holy mountain; do not lift your eyes to idols, do not defile your neighbor's wife, do not oppress anyone, do not commit robbery, give bread to the poor and cover the naked, withhold one's hand from iniquity, expedite justice and, faithfully follow God's statutes and obey His ordinances. Ezekiel ends this lesson by relaying God's words, "... cast away transgressions committed against me, get a new heart and a new spirit and live."

May 30, 2021

Lesson Title: Jonah: Fiery Harbinger of Doom

Lesson Scripture: Jonah 3

Print: Jonah 3

Devotional Songs: #355[]; #321[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evilways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them" (Jonah 3:10).

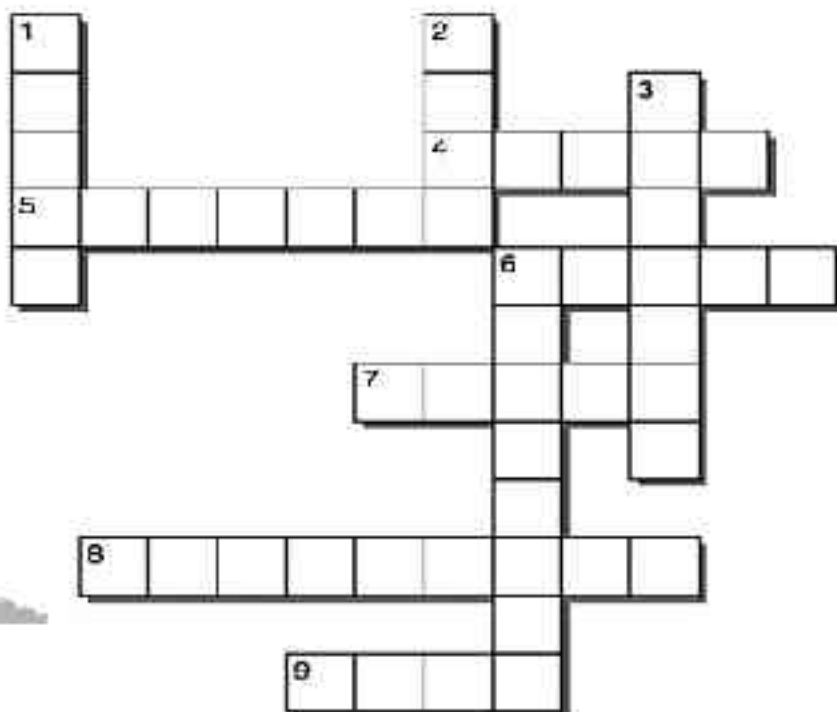
We know the story of the prophet Jonah and how he attempted to flee instead of doing the work of God. While in the belly of the great fish, Jonah repents of his sins and vows that he will do as God has ordained. God speaks to Jonah a second time and directs Jonah to go to Nineveh and deliver the message that God sends. And so, Jonah goes to Nineveh, a vast city that expands a three day walk from one end to another. After one day of walking, Jonah cries out, "forty days more and Nineveh shall be overthrown", turns around and leaves the city to await its fate.

The people of Nineveh, who probably heard accounts of Jonah being swallowed by the great fish and now seeing the prophet in their midst, hear the words of Jonah and immediately start the process of atoning for their sins; dressing up in sack cloth and sitting in ashes. The king of Nineveh makes a proclamation that every human and every animal will dress in sack cloth and pray and cry out for forgiveness. And as noted countless times in the Bible, God sees and hears the sincerity of Nineveh's plea for mercy and holds back the calamity that is planned for the people of Nineveh.



Kids' Corner

Jonah CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 4) Yah sent a _____ upon the ship.
- 5) Yah told Jonah to go to _____ and tell the people to repent.
- 6) Jonah traveled to this city to find a ship.
- 7) Jonah lived inside a fish for _____ days.
- 8) The king of Nineveh put on _____.
- 9) What ate and killed the plant?

DOWN

- 1) What grew up and gave Jonah shade?
- 2) Jonah was swallowed by a _____.
- 3) Jonah was a Hebrew _____.
- 6) Name the wicked king of Israel.

www.biblepathwayadventures.com



[Pinterest post] Pinterest. Retrieved April 2021, from <http://pinterest.com>

During the months of April and May
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=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09)
[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09)

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

St. John AME Church Lay Organization



**"Lalty Walking Humbly With God, to do
Justice and to Love Kindness"**
Scriptural Reference: Micah 6: 8

The Lay Organization of St. John meets every
other month on the third Monday at 6:00 pm.

The next monthly meeting will be held on
May, 17, 2021 at 6:00 pm via ZOOM.
All St. John members are encouraged
to participant.

Brother Hodges Washington, President

Young People's Division



"Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

A Message from the YPD
Director, Mrs. Deidre Walton

Thanks are expressed to the YPD of St. John AME Church for
their generous contribution to the North West Annual Conference
Souper Bowl of Caring food bank fundraiser.

The YPD would like to thank St. John AME for a successful Easter
Egg Hunt. Special thanks to Jakeyah "Shay" Williams, Shannon,
Goode, Dr. Thalia Love, Angeline Brownlow, Rosemary Wells,
Zaria York & Isaiah Wright.

St John YPD will be honoring Mothers for Mother's Day. Please
submit any poems, drawings, etc. to YPD Director Deidre Walton
at deetergatesjones@gmail.com or stjyphsv@gmail.com
by Apr.30 2021.

YPDeers and parents please send your school accomplishments
to deetergatesjones@gmail.com or stjyphsv@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

- ♦ National Day of Prayer – May 6, 2021
- ♦ Mother's Day – May 9, 2021
- ♦ Check out the 9th district YPD Facebook page
- ♦ Contact Mrs. Walton at deetergatesjones@gmail.com,
stjyphsv@gmail.com, or (703-772-1121).

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

April 2021

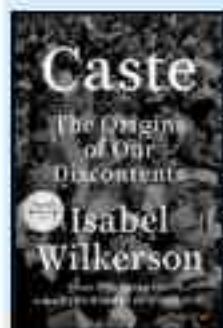
**Discussion Date: April 17, 2021
9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

Broken Spirit, Jackson-Beavers, Rose, 2018.

May 2021

**Discussion Date: May 15, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents, Wilkerson, Isabel, 2020.



Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people—including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball's Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, Wilkerson herself, and many others—she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their out-cast of the Jews; she discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against; she writes about the surprising health costs of caste, in depression and life expectancy, and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture and politics. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.

Beautifully written, original, and revealing, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* is an eye-opening story of people and history, and a reexamination of what lies under the surface of ordinary lives and of American life today. —Amazon

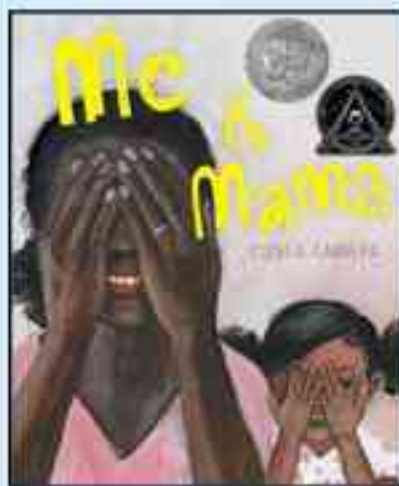
Young Readers' Café Editor's Favorites



Mary Hoffman
And
Caroline Binch
(4-8 years)



Vera B. Williams
(4-8 years)
A Caldecott Award
Book



Cozbi A. Cabrera
A Caldecott and
Coretta Scott King
Honor Book
(4-8 years)

Military Ministry News

Col. (Ret.) Felicia Carter



April is designated as Month of the Military Child – a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experience of the dependent children of military members serving at home and overseas. Month of the Military Child is sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy and supported by many other organizations such as the Department of Defense Education Activities DoDEA.

Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported. **Air Force blue**, **Army green**, **Navy blue**, **Marine red**, and **Coast Guard blue** all are thought to combine together as a single color, purple.

Month of the Military Child is sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy and supported by many other organizations such as the Department of Defense Education Activities (DoDEA).

Wear **Purple** during the month of April to show your appreciation for our Military Children. **Purple Up St. John!!!**

The St. John AME Military Ministry

The St. John AME Military Ministry will meet on the first Thursday of each month via ZOOM.

Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Point of contact: Sister Felicia Carter, 256-529-2667

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NlUTNONkZxVjR4WlRlbnxkdktm9oZz09>

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: S1a1rF

One tap mobile

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+13017158592,,73469179993#,...*078010# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 078010

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993>



Thank You for Your Service!

Memorial Day: Honoring Those Who Died in Military Service

Col. (Ret.) Felicia Carter

Memorial Day, is celebrated on the last Monday in May. It honors service members who have died in military service to the nation. According to *Black America Web*, Yale University history professor David Blight says that blacks in Charleston, South Carolina launched the first Decoration Day, in which they decorated the graves of dead soldiers, in honor of the Union's war dead on May 1, 1865.



What does the poppy mean on Memorial Day?

On Monday, May 31, 2021, many Americans will pin a bright red poppy to their shirts as a sign of respect. In the United States, the poppy is worn on the last Monday in May, Memorial Day, to commemorate the lives of those who died fighting for their country. The Friday before Memorial Day (May 28 this year) is National Poppy Day. The poppies are handmade by veterans as part of their therapeutic rehabilitation and distributed across the country by the American Legion Auxiliary in exchange for donations that assist disabled and hospitalized veterans.



A Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a monument dedicated to the services of an unknown soldier and to the common memories of all soldiers killed in war.

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** 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.

Bible Study each Wednesday evening via ZOOM.
ZOOM Link is sent out to the congregation on email.
Discussion topic: **How to Pray About Your Problems**
Contact the church office for a copy of the lesson outline.
Email: office@stjohnhuntsville.com
Phone: 256-534-3265



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

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Communion Element Pick up 10:00-12:00 pm
2 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Holy Communion AMEN Deadline	3 10:00 a.m. Fifty Plus Meeting Via ZOOM 5:00 p.m. History Makers Ministry 6:00 p.m. CPR Ministry	4	5 6:00 p.m. Bible Study Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8
9 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Mother's Day Women's Health Week	10	11	12 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	13	14	15 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
16 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	17 Lay Organization Meeting 6:00 pm Via ZOOM	18 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	19 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	20	21	22 10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting
23 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	24	25 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

A close-up photograph of several pink tulips in bloom, with green stems and leaves visible. The background is softly blurred, showing more flowers. The entire image is framed by a thin purple border.

*Happy
Mothers
Day*

*May Your
Day Be
Filled With
Love*

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

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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

Important Dates to Remember

- May 5, 2021, Cinco de Mayo
- May 6, 2021, National Day of Prayer
- May 9, 2021, Mother's Day
- May 17, 2021, the new deadline for filing the 2020 taxes
- May 23, 2021, Pentecost Scattered, A Day of Witnessing
- May 31, 2021, Memorial Day



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 26 Issue 5

May 2021

Class of 2021

Congratulations



Forgetting
what is behind
&
embracing
what is ahead,
Philippians 3:13-14
I PRESS ON.

Congratulations High School Graduates



Mr. Michael James Clark

Mr. Michael James Clark, son of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Clark graduated from Madison Academy on Saturday, May 15, 2021.

His plans are to attend Jacksonville State University in the fall, majoring in Computer Science with a concentration in video game development.



Miss Jayla Mack

Miss Jayla Mack, daughter of Ms. Laticia Mack will graduate on Friday, May 28th from Columbia High School.

Her plans are to attend Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University in the fall and major in Elementary Education.



EQUIPMENT

By Edgar Guest

Figure it out for yourself, my friend,
You've all that the greatest have had within,
Two arms, two hands, two legs, two eyes,
And a brain to use if you would be wise,
With this equipment they all began,
So start for the top and say, "I can."

Look them over, the wise and great,
They take their food from a common plate,
And similar knives and forks they use,
With similar laces they tie their shoes,
The world considers them brave and smart,
But you've all they had when they made their start.

You can triumph and come to skill,
You can be great if you only will,
You're well equipped for what fight you choose,
You have legs, arms and a brain to use,
And the one who has risen great deeds to do,
Began their life with no more than you,

You are the handicap you must face,
You are the one who must choose your place,
You must say where you want to go,
How much you will study the truth to know,
God has equipped you for life, but He
Lets you decide what you want to be.

Courage must come from the soul within,
You must furnish the will to win,
So figure it out for yourself, my friend,
You were born with all that the great have within,
With your equipment they all began,
Get hold of yourself, and say: "I can!"

Equipment by Edgar Guest—a favorite poem of
George Washington Carver



Graduate School Graduates



Pamela Whitehead, Ph.D.

Congratulations

Dr. Pamela Whitehead,
Doctor of Philosophy
Degree
Business Administration
with a Concentration in
Business Management
from
The University of South
Alabama



Kebey Wilson, Ph.D.

Congratulations

Dr. Kebey Wilson,
Doctor of Philosophy Degree
Courseing Education & Supervision
North Dakota State University

College Graduates



Johnathan Scott, Jr.

Congratulations

Mr. Johnathan Scott, Jr.
University of Central Florida
Master of Science Degree
Hospitality and Tourism
Management

Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Johnathan Scott



Collin Adkins

Congratulations

Mr. Collin Adkins
Mississippi State University
Bachelor of Science Degree
Industrial Engineering

Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Adkins



Drive-by Celebration for
Our Graduates!

St. John will celebrate its
high school, college, and advanced degree graduates on Saturday, June 5th
between
2:00 pm and 4:00 pm.

Let's show them some LOVE!

Community Engagement

2021 Walk Ms, Thank You!

Patricia Grier



The 'MS PAC (Praying for A Cure)' Team participated in the Virtual 'Walk MS' event for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in Huntsville the weekend of April 24th. For the 32nd year the team had the opportunity to participate in this worthwhile MS fundraising activity.

MS is a chronic, often disabling disease that attacks the Central Nervous System (CNS). Symptoms may be mild, such as numbness in the limbs or frequent fatigue; or severe, such as paralysis or loss of vision. The progression, severity, and specific symptoms of MS are unpredictable and vary from person to person. A significant portion of the funds raised from the 'Walk MS' events go toward the research for new MS treatments and for support of services for MS patients. Hopefully one day soon a cure for MS will be found. That is why, 'To End MS, We Walk MS'.

The 'MS PAC (Praying for A Cure)' team would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who made generous contributions and supported this annual team activity and fundraiser. The team members participating this year were: Agnes Gilmore, Pat Grier (Team Captain), Kenneth Parham, Lorraine Parham, and Lillie Rivers. The Team members will be collecting donations through the end of June. If anyone would like support the team members and this worthy cause, but missed making a donation, please contact Pat Grier, Team Captain, at 256-726-9251. Also, contributions may be made online using the link below:

The 'MS PAC (Praying for A Cure)' team would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who made generous contributions and supported this annual team activity and fundraiser. The team members participating this year were: Agnes Gilmore, Pat Grier (Team Captain), Kenneth Parham, Lorraine Parham, and Lillie Rivers. The Team members will be collecting donations through the end of June. If anyone would like support the team members and this worthy cause, but missed making a donation, please contact Pat Grier, Team Captain, at 256-726-9251. Also, contributions may be made online using the link below:

http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?team_id=631054&pg=team&fr_id=31470&et=PJ6hITQV1Jy3zU3k2Y0g

Scroll to the bottom of the MS PAC team's webpage and either donate to one of the team members or to the MS PAC Team. Thanks again for your generous support.



Ms. Patricia Grier



Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Parham



Ms. Agnes Gilmore



Ms. Lillie Rivers

Highlighting Our Youth

Lydia Owens



Johnathan Bailey

Johnathan Bailey

Johnathan is a 9th grader at Mae Jemison High School. His academic interests are Geometry and History. He enjoys band and playing video games. Johnathan believes that in-person learning is more beneficial to most students. He feels that it is too easy to miss/skip class with virtual learning. Not that he would ever think of doing so.

Johnathan is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Bailey and the brother to David Bailey. He is the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Gilmore.

He enjoys participating in YPD activities at St. John and is not shy when asked to speak or participate during worship.

David Bailey



David Bailey

David is a 6th grader at the Academy of Science and Foreign Language (ASFU). Academically he enjoys reading, science and social studies. Like his older brother he likes the band and playing video games.

When asked about his impression of virtual vs in-school learning, David stated, "I think in-school learning is better because I like the physical interaction between the teacher and students. There can be more distractions, and it is much easier to miss class virtually."

David is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Bailey and the brother to Johnathan Bailey. He is the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Gilmore.

Alijah Webb



Alijah Webb

Alijah Webb is a 5th grade student at Rainbow Elementary School. His favorite subject is mathematics. When not doing academics in virtual school, which he likes, Alijah likes playing basketball, swimming, bike riding, playing video games and Anime, which is a style of Japanese film and television animation.

Alijah is the nephew of Ms. Tonya McCree, a member of St. John AME Church.



Henry Preston Smiley



Henry Preston Smiley

Henry Preston Smiley is a 5th grader at Riverton Intermediate School. Henry's favorite subject is math and enjoys sports, especially football when not studying. When asked about his preference for school this year he stated, "I was a virtual student all year due to COVID. And it was AWESOME!"

Henry is the son of Ms. Candice Smiley. He is a member of St. John AME Church and serves on the Junior Usher Board.



AME Proud

Sassy Discovers the AME Church Book Launch

Mary Margaret Fanson, better known as "Sassy" was introduced to her audience of enthusiastic readers on Saturday, May 1, 2021. It was a glorious day for a book sale and book signing held in the parking lot of the historic St. John AME Church. The author, B. A. Johnson and her "Team Sassy," were available for autographs and pictures with all the eager recipients of the book.



B. A. Johnson, Author
Sassy Discovers the AME Church



Sassy Discovers the AME Church
May be purchased online at

Amazon.com
Barnes & Noble.com
BooksAMillion.com
hard cover, soft cover, and ebook

Congratulations!



Ms. Lisa Sherrod

Ms. Lisa Sherrod has accepted the position of Director — External Affairs, AT&T Services, Inc. In her new role, Lisa will be responsible for managing stakeholder relations with the City and County of Dallas.

Previously, Lisa worked as Director of External and Community Relations for Tenet Healthcare, where she managed Tenet's national and local community relations efforts, the Tenet Foundation, in addition to supporting government relations. Prior to her role at Tenet, she served as Outreach Director for Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson in Dallas, and for seven years worked on the Washington policy staff for two Texas delegation members.

Lisa is a member of the Dallas Chapter of The Links, Incorporated volunteer organization, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and committed to a multitude of local civic efforts. She has been featured in Roll Call, Congressional Quarterly and Who's Who In Black Dallas.

Ms. Sherrod is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Sherrod, members of St. John AME Church.

Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 23, 2021



"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." Acts: 2:1

Pentecost: Lifting the Holy Spirit before the People

The Reverend Dr. Monica C. Jones, Contributing Writer

Reprinted from The Christian Recorder, May 13, 2018

We, as people of faith and informed believers, understand that the Resurrection was not the end of Christ's interaction with his followers on Earth. The 40 days that he spent after his victory over the grave culminated in an important message: the Counselor would come as God promised and the people should stay in the city until the Holy Spirit descended upon them (see Luke 24). His prophetic words were actualized when, in Jerusalem on that fateful day (Acts 2), the Holy Spirit filled the souls of the worshippers with power and the anointing. What does this mean for us in the life of the church? We must make Pentecost relevant!

As recipients of the Holy Spirit, we are afforded gifts and fruit that enhance our spiritual growth and uplift the church (1 Corinthians 12 and Galatians 5 respectively). Our constant prayer should be that the Holy Spirit empowers us to use God's gifts to bless his people and strengthen the church. For some, this may be a straight-forward task. For others, it may seem daunting.

To make the Holy Spirit meaningful to all worshippers, celebrate, commemorate, and consecrate special occasions that bring the entire Trinity before the people. Too often, we neglect God's Third Person by leaving Pentecost off of our church worship calendar and forgetting to teach on the subject.

Celebrate. Sing from the choir loft, read in church school, preach from the pulpit, and reflect in Bible study. Do all these things but do not wait until Pentecost Sunday to do so. Periodically, make Pentecost or the miracle that took place on that day a part of your worship or Christian Education calendar. Introduce a single element, e.g., Peter's sermon, or occurrence from the Pentecost narrative into some part of the church's year-round ministry. Distribute easy-to-read material after Resurrection Day to prepare the people for the Pentecost celebration.

Commemorate. On Pentecost Sunday, make the day meaningful with colors (red, gold, or white), symbols (dove or fire), and music ("Spirit of the Living God" or "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit") that will send a lasting message to the worshippers. In addition to the message, invite church school teachers to incorporate Acts 2 in each age level lesson, and plan some other special activity that young people and mature adults can enjoy.

Consecrate. Emphasize the holy nature of Pentecost and use this day (or the days before) to have intense, unified prayer at the altar. Ask members to rededicate themselves and their ministries. Invite all believers to pray for clarity regarding God's call on their lives. Urge those who feel they have been called in any way to declare themselves before the Lord and offer their gifts back to God for God's use.

Let us not let Pentecost come and go without seeking ways to make the holy season more relevant to our church and our faith. We identify God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost with our words. Now, let us identify with each in our ministry.

The Rev. Monica C. Jones, PhD is the director of Christian Education at Big Bethel AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia. For Pentecost music suggestions, follow Monica Jones (@MJsinging) on Twitter.

Jones, Monica. "Pentecost: Lifting the Holy Spirit before the People." The Christian Recorder, AMEC Sunday School Union. 13 May 2018, Page 1.

Church School Lesson Overview – June 2021

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer

June 6, 2021

Lesson Title: Why Do You Worry?

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 6: 25-34

Print: Matthew 6:25-34

Devotional Songs: #464[], #251[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:32-33).

This lesson encourages us to seek God first so that we can place everything in perspective. Instead of worrying about materialistic gain, power, or prestige, believers should be focused on the promises of God. If God takes care of the simplest of animals, believers should trust that He will provide for us. God can provide for us better than we can provide for ourselves, so we need to make sure that job worries, financial problems, health and other concerns not in our control do not consume us. When life's uncertainties cause us to worry, we must trust in the sovereign God to provide for our needs.

June 13, 2021

Lesson Title: Delivered from Fear

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

Print: Matthew 8:23-27

Devotional Songs: #97[], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm" (Matthew 8:26).

In this lesson we see in the text a situation that caused fear of death.

Jesus used His miracles, which were signs that God's kingdom was breaking into the world, to help others. He focused on people in hopeless situations. God's promised rule over all restores His righteous purpose to destroy the sin-threat and the consequences of it. God's people would then live safe and secure in his presence for eternity.

June 20, 2021

Lesson Title: Healed by Faith

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43, and Luke 8:40-56

Print: Matthew 9:18-26

Devotional Songs: #425[], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verse: Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter, your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment (Matthew 9:22).

In this lesson, Jairus comes to Jesus trusting that He will heal his daughter. That desperation Jairus experienced combined with faith was seen and commended by Jesus. Likewise, the woman with the issue of blood did not go unnoticed. Jesus provided healing and resurrection not just to the girl and the woman, but also to the community. Witnesses to the miracles gained hope. Many times, we shun the hopeless, helpless, desperate ones rather than showing compassion. Our faith should lead us to show mercy as Jesus did. This will lead us to a restored life.

June 27, 2021

Lesson Title: Rescued from Doubt

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Print: Matthew 14:22-33

Devotional Songs: #321[], #77[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'" (Matthew 14:31).

This week's lesson is set on the Sea of Galilee, where storms formed quickly as its western shore has steep hills. A storm coming from the direction of the Mediterranean Sea might not be seen until it is almost on top of boaters. Keep in mind that a small boat hit by high winds is in a dangerous situation.

Jesus' power and the disciples' limitation in their thinking were greatly displayed in the feeding of the five thousand. The disciples were witnesses to various events over a three-year period that should have instilled confidence in Jesus by this point. They should have responded to being let down, being blocked, and being in danger with faith in Jesus as His power could overcome every impossible situation. However, each new impossible situation, like the sudden storm in this lesson, became a new occasion for them to ask themselves whether or not Jesus was worthy of their trust. All Peter had to do was keep his eye on Jesus and not on the storm.

Kids' Corner

Jesus Raises a Dead Girl

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." Mark 5:35-43 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



U	B	T	G	R	O	I	Q	P	J	M	X	E	S	N	Y	L	D	C	K	A	H	W	F	V	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 18-21-1-4-22-3-13-5 _____
- 18-16-7-15-4 _____
- 22-13-21-17-13-18 _____
- 21-24-5-21-7-18 _____
- 2-13-17-7-13-25-13 _____
- 19-5-16-7-15-4 _____
- 21-14-17-13-13-9 _____
- 17-21-1-4-22-13-18 _____
- 14-3-6-6-18 _____
- 23-21-17-20-13-18 _____

CRYING
AFRAID

BELIEVE
STOOD

DAUGHTER
LAUGHED

HEALED
WALKED

ASLEEP
DYING

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[Pinterest post] Pinterest. Retrieved May 2021, from <http://pinterest.com>



BACK-TO-BASICS (B2B) VIRTUAL TUTORIAL PROGRAM

Ninth Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church
Women's Missionary Society and Young People's and Children's Division
Mrs. Mary Wells-Porter
Ninth Episcopal District Second WMS Vice President
Commission on Education and Interpretation Chair

"I can do all things through Christ, which strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

Special thanks to Mrs. Susie Jones Bonner, President of the Ninth Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society; Reverend Sherita Moon Seawright, Supervisor of the Ninth Episcopal District WMS, and the Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop of the Ninth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for their support of the Back-To-Basics Virtual Tutorial Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about tremendous changes in the method of teaching students in the classroom. As a result, the students missed the individualized assistance provided by the classroom teachers. Virtual education became the norm. The COVID 19 pandemic seemed to have changed education forever.

The organization of Back-To-Basics (B2B) began on August 5, 2020. The B2B Team was organized in October 2020. The Team members were Mrs. Debra Weatherspoon, Co-Chair and WMS Director of the Young People's and Children's Division; Mrs. Cathy Brown, Dr. Sandra Harrell, Mrs. Rosemary Lamar, Dr. Thalia Love-Brown, Mrs. LaReen McDaniel, Mrs. LaVarne McReynolds, and Mrs. Anika Riley. The Team had support from members of the Ninth Episcopal District Technical Team, Conference WMS Presidents, Second Vice Presidents of the Conferences, and other leaders and members of the Women's Missionary Society. The Program began after intensive planning over a three-month period.

The B2B Virtual Tutorial Program was organized to provide instructional strategies that would keep students motivated and engaged, empower parents and guardians to stay connected in the educational process of children, and to provide on-going educational support for the children. Also, the Program provided an awareness of the Alabama Department of Education expectations of student learning in Pre-K and Grades K-5.

The mission of the Program was to utilize instructional strategies to make a positive impact on student learning and provide online experience and support for students, parents, and guardians.

A virtual B2B Parent/Student Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. The Program's mission, objectives, registration form, and parent/student responsibilities were discussed followed by questions and answers.

B2B Tutoring began its first tutoring classes on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. The program met every Tuesday from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Tutors were present at 4:30 p.m. and the students were asked to be present at 4:50 p.m.

Thirty-eight students enrolled in the program with the greatest numbers in reading and math. The students were located throughout the Ninth Episcopal District, other communities, and as far away as Miamisburg, Ohio.

In addition, there were thirty highly qualified tutors assisting the students. The "call to serve" was wonderful because when we serve others, we are serving the Lord. Thank you, Lord, for showing us the joy and beauty in a life of loving service. "By love serve one another". Galatians 5:13 KJV

(Continued on page 11)

During the months of June & July
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

St. John AME Church Soft-Opening of the Sanctuary

Thank you for your patience as we have endured a year and two months away from the sanctuary. St. John AME Church will begin opening the sanctuary for the 10:00 am worship service on Sunday, June 6, 2021. However, we want to do it carefully and intentionally to maintain safety for everyone.

On this first occasion only fifty persons will be allowed in the sanctuary. Members wishing to attend this first service must follow these procedures.

- Attendees must register with Eventbrite to attend. Forty slots will be available through Eventbrite. Ten slots will be available through the office for those who can not access Eventbrite. Call the church office to make your reservations.

- Mask requirements and social distancing will be in place.

- Seating will be designated according to signage.

- The 10:00 am service will continue to be livestreamed on all platforms as usual.

Young People's Division



"Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

A Message from the YPD
Director, Mrs. Deidre Walton

YPDers and parents please send your school accomplishments to deetergatesjones@gmail.com or stjyphsv@gmail.com.

- Check out the 9th district YPD Facebook page
- Contact Mrs. Walton at deetergatesjones@gmail.com, stjyphsv@gmail.com, or (703-772-1121).

St. John AME Church
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President
Young People's Division
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director

BACK-TO-BASICS (B2B) VIRTUAL TUTORIAL PROGRAM

(Continued from page 10)

The students, parents, and tutors will celebrate with a B2B Virtual Tutorial Program on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, for their participation and dedication. You will receive a flyer inviting you to this virtual event.

B2B can be found in a link on the Ninth Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society Website. Visit Back-To-Basics at <https://9thepiscopaldistrictwms.org>.

*Written by Mary Wells-Porter,
Organizer and Chair of B2B*



Church School Book Club

June 2021

Discussion Date: June 19, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

It's Not All Downhill from Here: A Novel, McMillan, Terry, 2020.

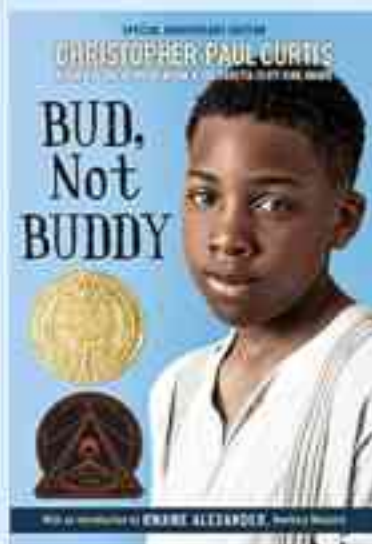


Loretha Curry's life is full. A little crowded sometimes, but full indeed. On the eve of her 68th birthday, she has a booming beauty-supply empire, a gaggle of lifelong friends, and a husband whose moves still surprise. True, she is carrying a few more pounds than she should be, but Loretha is

not one of those women who think her best days are behind her – and she is determined to prove wrong her mother, her twin sister, and everyone else with that outdated view of aging wrong. It is not all downhill from here.

But when an unexpected loss turns her world upside-down, Loretha will have to summon all her strength, resourcefulness, and determination to keep on thriving, pursue joy, heal old wounds, and chart new paths. With a little help from her friends, of course. – Amazon

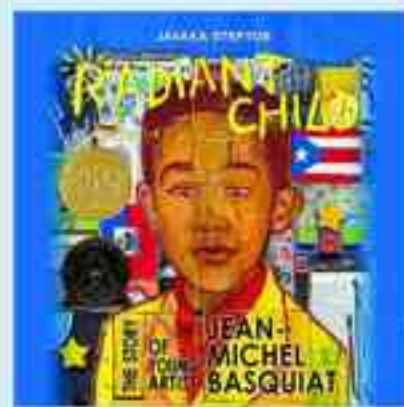
Young Readers' Café Editor's Favorites



Christopher Paul Curtis

The Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award-winning classic about a boy who decides to hit the road to find his father—from Christopher Paul Curtis, author of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1965*, a Newbery and Coretta Scott King Honoree.

10-12 year olds



Javaka Steptoe

Jean-Michel Basquiat and his unique, collage-style paintings rocketed to fame in the 1980s as a cultural phenomenon unlike anything the art world had ever seen. But before that, he was a little boy who saw art everywhere: in poetry books and museums, in games and in the words that we speak,

and in the pulsing energy of New York City Now, award-winning illustrator Javaka Steptoe's vivid text and bold artwork echoing Basquiat's own introduce young readers to the powerful message that art doesn't always have to be neat or clean—and definitely not inside the lines—to be beautiful.

Winner of the Randolph Caldecott Medal and the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award

4-8 year olds

Military Ministry News

LTC. (Ret.) Felicia Carter



PTSD Awareness Month June

June is "National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month," and is intended to raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma associated with PTSD, and help ensure that those suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment.

What is it?

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event — either experiencing it or witnessing it. Symptoms may include flashbacks, nightmares and severe anxiety, as well as uncontrollable thoughts about the event. Most people who go through traumatic events may have temporary difficulty adjusting and coping, but with time and good self-care, they usually get better. If the symptoms get worse, last for months or even years, and interfere with your day-to-day functioning, you may have PTSD. Getting effective treatment after PTSD symptoms develop can be critical to reduce symptoms and improve function.

(Continued on page 14)

The St. John AME Military Ministry

The St. John AME Military Ministry will meet on the first Thursday of each month via ZOOM.
Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Point of contact: Sister Felicia Carter, 256-529-2667

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NlUTNOdkZxVjR4WllrbXdKTm9oZz09>

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993
Passcode: 51a1rF

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,73469179993#,,,*078010# US (New York)
+13017158592,,73469179993#,,,*078010# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993
Passcode: 078010

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993>



Military Ministry News

(Continued from page 13)

PTSD Awareness Month June

The Four Symptom Types

Post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms may start within one month of a traumatic event, but sometimes symptoms may not appear until years after the event. These symptoms cause significant problems in social or work situations and in relationships. They can also interfere with your ability to go about your normal daily tasks.

PTSD symptoms are generally grouped into four types: intrusive memories, avoidance, negative changes in thinking and mood, and changes in physical and emotional reactions. *Symptoms can vary over time or vary from person to person.*

Symptoms of intrusive memories may include:

- Recurrent, unwanted distressing memories of the traumatic event
- Reliving the traumatic event as if it were happening again (flashbacks)
- Upsetting dreams or nightmares about the traumatic event
- Severe emotional distress or physical reactions to something that reminds you of the traumatic event

Symptoms of avoidance may include:

- Trying to avoid thinking or talking about the traumatic event
- Avoiding places, activities or people that remind you of the traumatic event

Symptoms of negative changes in thinking and mood may include:

- Negative thoughts about yourself, other people or the world
- Hopelessness about the future
- Memory problems, including not remembering important aspects of the traumatic event
- Difficulty maintaining close relationships
- Feeling detached from family and friends
- Lack of interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Difficulty experiencing positive emotions
- Feeling emotionally numb

Department of Veterans Affairs 2021 PTSD Awareness Month Calendar

Spread the Word, Raise Awareness.

June 1: Take the [pledge to raise PTSD Awareness](#).

June 2: Use the VA's [PTSD image](#) as your Social Media profile pic.

June 3: Share resources like the [Veterans Crisis Line](#).

June 27: PTSD Awareness Day

Announcements



Worship Service Live Streaming

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

Audio Listening only of the 10:00 am worship service (3 steps)

1. First, Dial.....**321-626-6799**
2. Next, dial**889-5387-3674**
3. Then, dial**090 252**

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study
6:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

Bible Study each Wednesday evening via ZOOM.
ZOOM Link is sent out to the congregation on email.
Discussion topic: Nehemiah: Rebuilding the Wall
Contact the church office for a copy of the lesson outline.
Email: office@stjohnhuntsville.com
Phone: 256-534-3265



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 _____

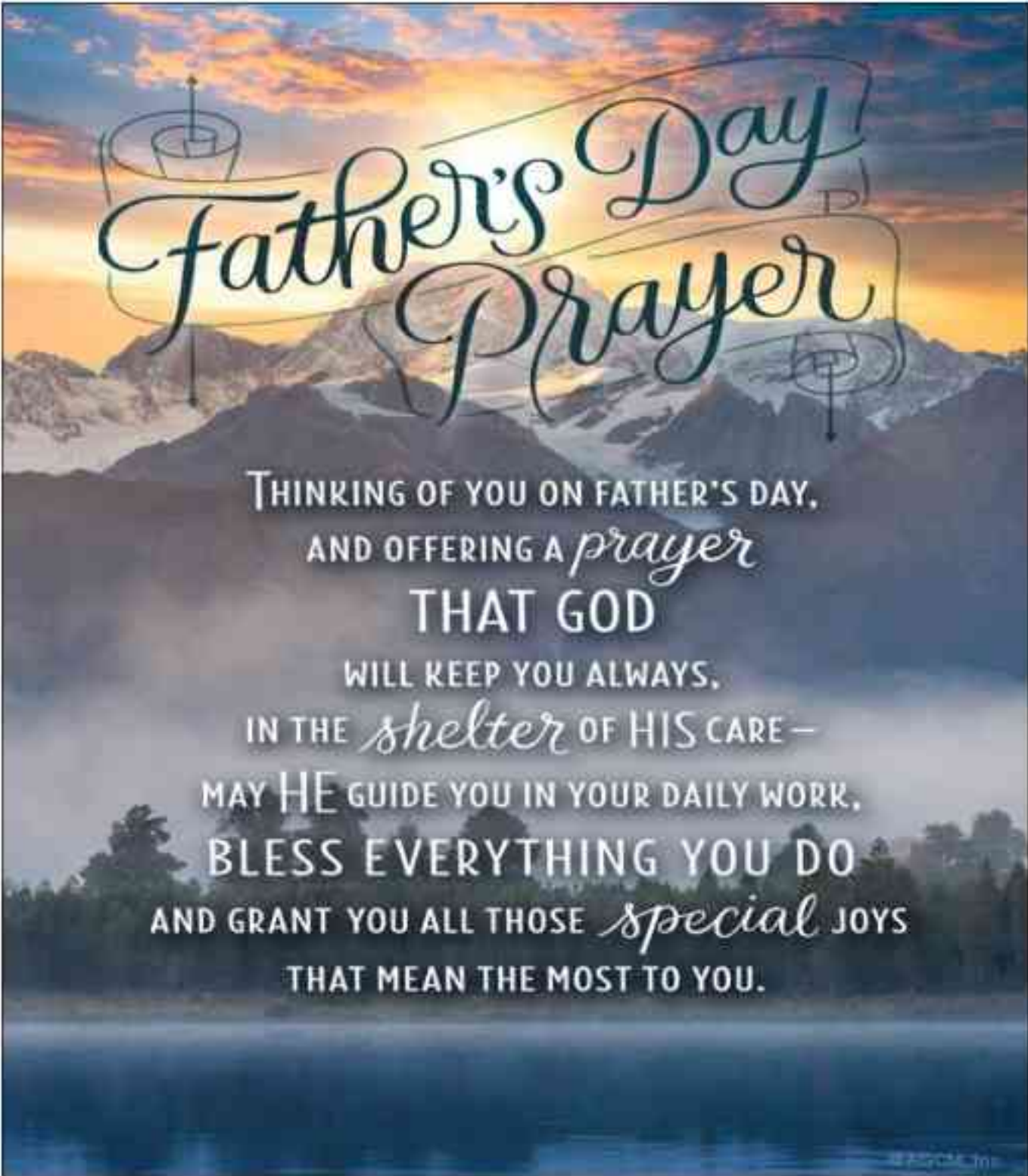
Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____ ☐ Verified

+ Check each box that applies	Amount
☐ Tithes	_____
☐ Offering	_____
☐ Benevolence	_____
☐ Sunday School	_____
☐ Soup Kitchen	_____
☐ Daniel Payne	_____
☐ Building Project	_____
☐ Holiday Food Box	_____
☐ Other	_____
TOTAL	_____

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Drive-By Graduation Celebration & Communion Element Pick-up 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm
6 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Holy Communion AMEN Deadline	7 10:00 a.m. Rity-Plus Meeting Via ZOOM 5:00 p.m. History Makers Ministry 5:00 p.m. CPM Ministry	8	9 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	10	11	12
13 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	14 Men's Health Week	15 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN Ninth District CEC	16 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	17	18	19 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
20 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Father's Day First Day of Summer	21 Lay Organization Meeting 6:00 pm Via ZOOM	22 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	23 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	24	25	26 10:00 a.m. WMS Meeting
27 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	28	29	30			

Happy Father's Day to all the Fathers, Grandfathers, Great-Grandfathers,
Step-fathers, and Stand-in fathers
of
St. John AME Church!



Father's Day Prayer

THINKING OF YOU ON FATHER'S DAY,
AND OFFERING A *prayer*
THAT GOD
WILL KEEP YOU ALWAYS,
IN THE *shelter* OF HIS CARE –
MAY HE GUIDE YOU IN YOUR DAILY WORK,
BLESS EVERYTHING YOU DO
AND GRANT YOU ALL THOSE *special* JOYS
THAT MEAN THE MOST TO YOU.

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

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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

Important Dates to Remember

- June 06, 2021, First Sunday. Soft Opening of the sanctuary for 10:00 am worship.
- June 14, 2021, Men's Health Week
- June 15, Ninth District CEC
- June 20, 2021, Father's Day



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



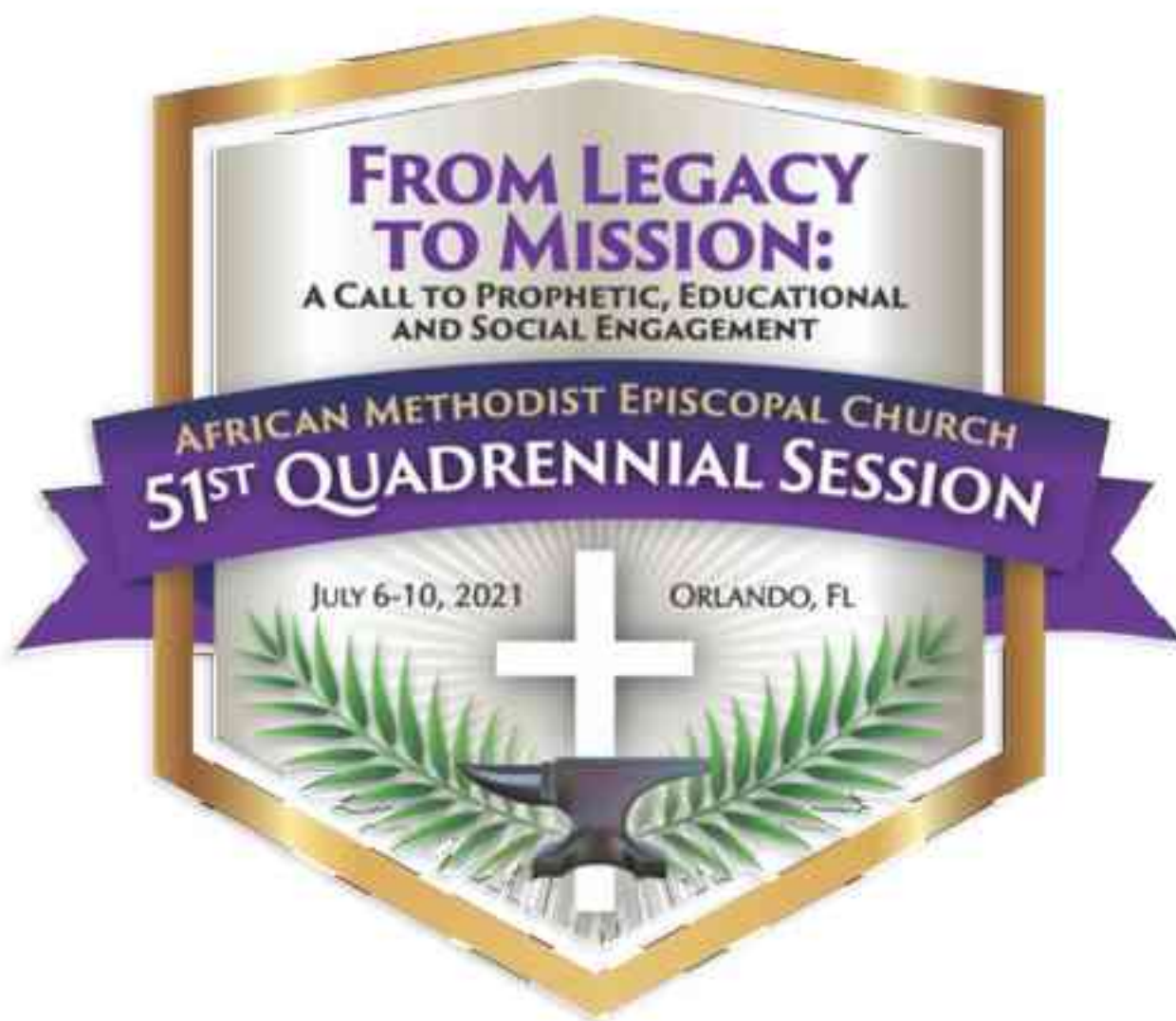
St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 26 Issue 6

June 2021

OUR CALLING TO FULFIL, "PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL,
COMMUNITY SERVICE, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT"



So What is the General Conference?

The African Methodist Episcopal Church is a connectional organization. Each local church is a part of the larger connection.

The Bishops are the Chief Officers of the Connectional Organization. They are elected for life by a majority vote of the General Conference which meets every four years. Bishops are bound by the laws of the church to retire upon the General Conference nearest their 75th birthday.

Presiding Elders are the assistants, like middle management, whom the Bishops appoint to supervise the preachers in a Presiding Elder's District. A Presiding Elder District is one portion of an Annual Conference, which in turn is one part of the Episcopal District over which a Bishop presides. In the Presiding Elder District, the appointed Presiding Elder meets with the local churches, that comprise the District, at least once every three months for a Quarterly Conference. The Presiding Elder also presides over a District Conference and a Sunday School Convention in his or her District. At the end of an Annual Conference year, the Presiding Elder reports to the Bishop at the Annual Conference and makes recommendations for pastoral appointments.

Pastors receive a yearly appointment to a charge (church), on the recommendation of the Presiding Elder and with the approval and final appointment of the Bishop. The pastor is in full charge of the Church and is an ex-official member of all boards, organizations and clubs of that Church.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The General Conference is the supreme body of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is composed of the Bishops, as ex-officio presidents, according to the rank of election, and an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates, elected by each of the Annual Conferences and the Lay Electoral Colleges of the Annual Conferences. Other ex-officio members are: the General Officers, College Presidents, Deans/Presidents of Theological Seminaries; Chaplains in the Regular Armed Forces of the U.S.A.

The General Conference meets quadrennially (every four years) but may have extra sessions in certain emergencies.



Reference:

Richardson, Adam Jefferson. So what is the general conference? (2021). Retrieved from <https://ame2020.org/what-is-the-general-conference/>

2021 General Conference Information and Update Reprinted from The Christian Recorder, May 24, 2021

It's official! The 51st Quadrennial Session of the AME Church General Conference will be held July 6-10, 2021. The Connectional Lay Organization Biennial will open the morning of July 11 and close the afternoon of July 12, 2021. Please see ameclay.org for the latest information.

The General Conference will utilize the "Orlando Hybrid" model with meetings in two cities: Orlando, Florida, and Cape Town, South Africa. The "Orlando Hybrid" meeting design will decentralize the convention. Rather than meeting as one large group in one large room, we will meet in smaller rooms and multiple locations according to delegations. Each room and location will be virtually connected for all General Conference proceedings. Within each delegation meeting room (DMR), delegates will be able to use the speaker queue system to address the General Conference assembly as well as vote in real-time.

With the unfortunate, yet improving, situation of COVID-19, the question was raised, "How to best hold an in-person General Conference in the safest manner possible?" The answer to the question led to the development of a meeting plan with several goals in mind. First, provide an opportunity for a safer gathering to conduct the necessary business following CDC, Florida Department of Health, and local government guidance. Second, reduce the size of crowds gathered at any one time, in any place or space, to reinforce physical and social distancing. Third, institute CDC recommended measures to help control the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak and minimize the impact if one should occur. Fourth, protect the AME Church and its membership.

Due to international travel concerns, the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) in Cape Town, South Africa location was added. AME Church leadership, delegates, alternates, chaplains, college deans and presidents, and paid observers from Episcopal Districts 1-13 and 16 will meet in Orlando, Florida. AME Church leadership and delegates from Episcopal Districts 14-15 and 17-20 will meet at the CTICC in Cape Town, South Africa.

In Orlando, there will be a General Session Hall in the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) and separate meeting rooms for each Episcopal District delegation, chaplains, and paid observers. We will seat a maximum of 250 people in each room to ensure physical distancing guidelines. DMRs will be in the OCCC and partner hotels.

Attendees in the General Session Hall will include active and retired bishops and supervisors, active and retired general officers and their spouses, connectional officers (including the WMS and CLO delegates), the Judicial Council, members of the Board of Incorporators college deans and presidents, other guests, and program participants. Only credentialed delegates, alternates, and district leadership will be allowed in the DMRs.

In the General Session Hall and DMRs in both Orlando and Cape Town, seating will be limited to 50% capacity. In the DMRs, delegates will be seated at assigned classroom tables spaced to accommodate one person per six-foot table. Alternates will be seated in assigned chairs behind the delegation spaced six feet apart. Daily temperature and badge checks will be required for entry into all meeting spaces.

Meeting locations will be cleaned and disinfected regularly during scheduled breaks. Likewise, equipment will also be cleaned and disinfected regularly. This includes computers, projectors, sound systems, microphones, and voting machines, which will be individually packaged for each person.

Paid observers in Orlando will be seated in a separate meeting room and view the proceedings through a live feed from the General Session Hall. They too will be physically distanced and seated in assigned seats, though households will be allowed to sit together. Daily temperature and badge checks will be required for entry into this space.

Candidates for service will be challenged to campaign in new and different ways as COVID-19 protocols will not allow for the traditional campaign representatives in the lobby and halls of the convention centers and partner hotels. Pop-ups will only be allowed in designated areas. Candidates are encouraged to utilize the virtual vending platform and develop short videos to be

2021 General Conference Information and Update

(Continued from page 3)

shared in Orlando and Cape Town. There are also two Eat and Greet the Candidates events in the current program schedule.

To stay abreast of up-to-date General Conference information on-site, a mobile app has been created. The app should be downloaded on your device(s) before arrival. AME Church leadership, delegates, and alternates will access all legislation, reports, other material, and information through a secure section on the mobile app. Paid observers are also encouraged to download the app before arrival where the agenda and other general information will be provided.

Various food and beverage options will be available in the convention centers and partner hotels in both Orlando and Cape Town. These include covered plated meals, buffet meals served by masked and gloved staff behind plexiglass barriers, and pre-packaged grab-n-go meals and snacks. Restaurants are open and operating safely. Many offer touchless payment options.

To minimize lines, registration times for AME Church leadership and districts will be scheduled in staggered time frames. Plexiglass partitions will be set up at each counter and physical distancing will be required while in line. Attendees will be able to view their badges in advance to help minimize changes on site.

Revisions, Rules, and Credentials Committees will meet in Orlando and Cape Town as scheduled. Committee members in Cape Town will join their Committees via Zoom. All applicable COVID-19 protocols will be followed. The Revisions Committee will begin its work on June 30, 2021. The Rules and Credentials Committees will meet July 3-5, 2021.

Our partner hotels have also instituted many health and safety measures to assist in minimizing direct contact and interaction with others. Some of these measures include keyless room entry via cell phone, housekeeping by request only, hand sanitizing stations throughout the property, and required face coverings in common areas. Self-parking is strongly recommended.

There will not be a vendor exhibit hall on-site for the General Conference. However, a virtual vendor option is being developed by the 11th Episcopal District.

COVID-19 protocols will follow CDC guidelines for meetings and large gatherings. The guidelines are being monitored and adjustments are being made accordingly. All attendees will acknowledge their understanding of these protocols and requirements for the General Conference and Connectional Lay Organization Biennial.

Healthcare professionals will be in place in Orlando and Cape Town during both meetings. They will manage all COVID-19 issues as well as other medical emergencies and health concerns; provide screenings, staff first-aid clinics, provide telehealth options, and offer other health and safety support.

For additional information about General Conference, visit the official AME Church website at www.ame-church.com. Additionally, check your email for e-blasts from the CIO Office and *The Christian Recorder* or consult with your Episcopal District office. Observers with questions about registration or housing can call 1-833-628-6180, Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST, or email support@amec-2020gc.org.

The meeting plan has been designed with many safety protocols to help ensure a safe and healthy meeting. However, it will take all of us working together, following the protocols and guidelines, to ensure we have a safe and successful General Conference and Biennial. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando and Cape Town...Two Cities, One Church!

One Year Later: What's Next? What Can We Do?

Bobby Adkins

On May 25, 2021, members of St. John AME Church, Huntsville gathered for a "March for Justice" and reflection, remembering the life of George Perry Floyd Jr., who was tragically murdered by Minneapolis, MN police officer, Derek Chauvin, exactly one-year earlier, on May 25, 2020.

Concerned citizens and local activists from the greater Huntsville area listened to local criminal justice reform advocates, persons directly impacted by bad policing, and respected community leaders. St John AME, under the leadership of Pastor Maurice Wright, II, hosted the event, partnering with the United Women of Color, Huntsville Citizen's Coalition for Justice Reform (CCJR) and Black Lives Matter (BLM) Huntsville. Following the collection of inspirational speakers, all participants gathered for a peaceful march down Church Street to Big Spring Park, downtown Huntsville, for closing remarks.

Chris Brown, from the Huntsville Citizen's Coalition for Justice Reform expressed his excitement at the size of the crowd and informed the audience of why he joined CCJR, mentioning that, *"My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was murdered by the criminal justice system of His day, and I can not look away, and do nothing when our justice system today is still murdering people."*

The video of George Floyd's death sparked massive protests across the United States and around the world. Calls for criminal justice reform and changes in the rules of engagement for police officers became a public outcry, particularly from communities of color that have been most targeted by the inequities in policing around the country. Calls for accountability and justice were daily occurrences, coming from every state in the union.

The summer of 2020 may have been the summer of protest, but black folks have been protesting for decades (centuries), asking when will police officers be held accountable for bad policing? Why are Black folks much more susceptible to injury (or death) at the hands of police? When will the playing field be leveled? When does accountability apply to those employed to protect and serve? Why is everyone not subjected to the same level of governance? Why should some people be held to a much higher standard of conduct, while being subject to much less tolerance in how they are policed? Why are black folks always considered a threat to law enforcement? Being frank, why are Black Americans more prone to die for infractions that could easily be managed with a bit more patience, forbearance, a small fine, probation or less?

Romans 13:1-14 reads, *"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore, one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience."*

This is a powerful scripture, and most Christians understand the significance of good governance and the rule of law. However,

(Continued on page 6)



Community Leaders and Residents gathered at St. John AME HSV to commemorate the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's murder. Photo Credit (Bobby Adkins)

One Year Later: What's Next? What Can We Do?

Bobby Adkins

(Continued from page 5)

er, the challenge that communities of color face go beyond being subject to governing authorities. Even when black people are submissive and respectful, they are at much higher risk of injury or violence. That is why St. John AME came out in support of the March for Justice.

People of color demand the same rules of accountability be applied to those sworn to protect communities. They demand that police officers operate within the same confines of respect, sound judgement and good conduct. Yes, policing is often a very dangerous profession. However, gross misconduct, no matter the danger (or perceived danger) cannot be tolerated.

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities." Please, all must be held accountable!

All of the death; All of the prayer.
All of the protest; All of the politics.
All of the critics; All of the hate.

It is a never-ending cycle of torture for black folks. When is enough... enough? It has been over a year since the tragic murder of George Floyd. Since then, many more black men (and women) have been senselessly killed at the hands of police officers, with situations escalating from what starts as routine actions. There is not any reasonable explanation for these killings, which happen all over the country, and with startling frequency.

Along with Floyd's tragic death, the death of Breonna Taylor galvanized the nation, generating high-intensity debate about policing of the black community. The need to address systemic injustice facing people of color has challenged community leaders and the local churches to respond. St. John AME, realizing the possibility of the church becoming a target for standing up to injustice, never the less stood firm in its commitment to march.

These tragic deaths of black men and women at the hands of police simply make no sense. Taylor was killed by police officers in her own home after plain-clothed officers stormed her apartment while executing a "No-Knock" search warrant against her former boyfriend. It was a senseless killing; unnecessary violence; and a gross injustice. Other heartbreaks include:

- Daunte Wright (2020): After being pulled over in Minneapolis, MN for a routine traffic stop, cops attempted to arrest him for an outstanding warrant. Moments later, he was dead.
- Rayshard Brooks (2020): Fell asleep in his car at a fast-food drive-thru in Atlanta, GA. In the process of being restrained by police, who said he had too much to drink, a struggle ensued. Brooks fled, was no longer a direct threat to officers, yet was gunned down by police, having been shot in the back twice according to the autopsy
- Daniel Prude (2020): While suffering from mental illness, was identified as being disoriented on a Rochester, NY street by

(Continued on page 7)



Local activist provided participants with testimonials and legislative updates, while protesters used signs to remember those lost to unnecessary violence. Photo: Bobby Adkins.

One Year Later: What's Next? What Can We Do?

Bro. Bobby Adkins

(Continued from page 6)

- a local citizen. Law enforcement arrived; Prude was dead moments later.
- Ataniana Jefferson (2019): Jefferson was shot inside her Fort Worth, TX home by a police officer standing outside her window. A neighbor called police stating that the front door of her home was left open. An officer arrived on the scene; did not enter the house to investigate. Jefferson was killed within minutes.
 - Stephon Clarke (2018): Clarke was standing in his grandmother's backyard in Sacramento, CA holding a cellphone. Police alleged that he was holding a gun and shot him more than 20 times.
 - Botham Jean (2018): Jean was seated on his sofa in his Dallas, TX apartment eating ice cream. Jean was shot by off-duty police officer Amber Guyger after she entered his apartment, thinking (she said) it was hers and that HE was a dangerous intruder.

The list is long and tragic one. Each circumstance is unique, with some just plain bazaar, yet the end results are all too painfully familiar. Black people die at the hands of police much too frequently, without being given any benefit of doubt. That is why the March for Justice was needed. St. John AME answered the bell in keeping criminal justice reform in the local headlines, long after the massive protests have subsided. Though the cameras are gone, the challenges are still present. The struggle is real.

As the evening's protest ended, Bishop Seawright challenged protestors to be resilient, remain encouraged, to know that God is in control and to keep moving forward, not settling for the status quo. As Bishop spoke, one could sense the spiritual connection to a very moral stain of injustice that is facing black and brown Americans. A tired-up crowd nodded approvingly, as if understanding that it wasn't just a rally taking place, but a ministry in action, while knowing they had just received a Word from the Lord on this warm Tuesday evening. The Spirit of the Lord was indeed in this place. Shalom!



Peaceful protesters take to the streets of Huntsville in support of Criminal Justice Reform. The route from St John AME to Big Springs Park in downtown Huntsville, AL brought together people from all walks of life, united in a desire for equality and equity in policing. Photo Credit (Bobby Adkins)



Bishop Harry L. Seawright, the Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District of the AME Church, blessed and closed the evening with a rousing and spirited speech calling for continued and effective action and endurance to run this race.

Highlighting Our Youth

Lydia Owens



Chloe and Cayden Franklin

Chloe and Cayden Franklin

Chloe and Cayden are 5th grade twins at Williams Elementary School. Chloe enjoys math, while Cayden's favorite subject is reading. They both like to watch WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.) and riding their bikes. Chloe likes basketball and Cayden likes dance.

It has been a challenging school year, so their plans for the summer are to swim, visit Six Flags and spend some time in gymnastic classes.

Before the Pandemic closed the church, both girls sang in the Children's Choir, participated in the dance ministry, and attended Children's Church.

Chloe and Cayden are the daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Shayla Franklin, and the granddaughters of Mrs. Karen Minor.



LeeAnna Nicole Johnson

LeeAnna Nicole Johnson

LeeAnna Nicole Johnson completed the fourth grade and was promoted to the 5th grade. She will be attending Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School this fall. LeeAnna enjoys math and science. After a challenging school year, LeeAnna is looking forward to a summer of fun and relaxation.

Before the Pandemic closed the church, LeeAnna enjoyed attending Children's Church and helping out wherever she was needed.

Mr. Ronald & Tammy Johnson are LeeAnna's adoptive parents.



Mikayla Arianna Washington

Mikayla Arianna Washington

Mikayla is a 6th grader at Discovery Middle School. She enjoys creative writing, reading, science/STEM classes. When she is not studying Mikayla plays youth soccer with the NASC, Gravity Elite 09 Girls. Mikayla is also a member of the Girl Scouts (Cadet Bronze.)

Reading, writing stories, drawing, painting and making brackets are other activities Mikayla likes.

After a challenging school year, Mikayla plans to read as many novels as possible this summer, participate in private soccer training, take swimming lessons, attend Madison City Kids' Camp and vacation with her family. She has a full summer ahead of her.

Before the Pandemic closed the church, Mikayla enjoyed singing with the Children's Choir and participating in Children's Church.

Mikayla is the daughter of Ms. Shelby Washington and granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Hodges Washington.

AME Proud

"Spotlight on Our Elders" Honors Col. (Ret.) James O. Heyward



Col. (Ret.) James & Mrs. Heyward

"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature of The Valley Weekly Newspaper, sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in the community among those who are 70-plus.

Col. (Ret.) James O. Heyward was honored by The Rosetta James Foundation in the May 21, 2021 issue of The Valley Weekly Newspaper. Col. (Ret.) Heyward was recognized for his many, many achievements, awards, and military accomplishments in the city, state and nation. One of his most cherished accomplishments was his volunteer service with the scouting community.

He was honored at the Eagles Scouts Reception in Huntsville February 2010 for increasing the participation of urban youth in the scouting program. In April 2011, The Greater Huntsville Chapter, Jack and Jill of America presented the Pink, White and Blue Award to Heyward for his involvement and untiring work with the Boy Scouts of America. In June 2011, he received the "Making a Difference Award" from The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Inc. In June 2011, Heyward was an honoree at the Boy Scouts of America, Talakto District Annual Eagle Luncheon in Huntsville.

Col. & Mrs. Heyward are members of St. John A.M.E. Church. Col. (Ret.) Heyward serves as a Steward, and was the previous Secretary of the Board of Stewards for many years. Col. (Ret.) Heyward is married to the former Willie Mae Thompson, and they have two sons and two grandsons.

1 Rosetta James Foundation, "Spotlight on Our Elders," (2021) *Valley Weekly*, (Vol. 7, No. 37), Friday, May, Pg. 7.



Brother Willie Sandifer

A Quiet Servant

St. John recognizes the service of Brother Willie Sandifer. Brother Sandifer has been a member of St. John AME Church for 23 years. During his time at St. John he has served quietly and consistently with the Sunday School, as the Superintendent for 22 years. Prior to joining St. John, he served six years as Assistant Sunday School Superintendent at Gregg Chapel AME Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

He has worked faithfully with the Christian Education Department to sponsor creative and innovative activities for the children of the church; sponsoring Back to

School events, end of school nights, movie nights in the parking lot, game nights, and exciting events for Vacation Bible School each year.

Brother Sandifer has been a contributing writer for the St. John AMEN newsletter for years, providing the monthly Sunday School lesson reviews. He has also been the lead in selecting the books for the monthly Book Club, scheduling the meetings and leading vigorous discussions each month.

He also finds time to work with the media ministry, assisting the team with the production on Sunday mornings and providing engaging technology inspired games for the congregation during the annual church picnics. Mr. Willie Sandifer is a logistics maintenance specialist and uses his technology skills to engage the congregation.

Mr. Sandifer is an alumnus of Jackson State University, and a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He is married to Mrs. Alicia R. Sandifer. They have one adult daughter, Mrs. Whitney N. Jones and one granddaughter, Janiah C. Martin.

Class of 2021 Drive-By Celebration Saturday, June 5, 2021

**Mr. Michael James Clark,
High School**

**Dr. Pamela Whitehead,
Doctor of Philosophy Degree**

**Dr. Keisey Wilson,
Doctor of Philosophy Degree**



Miss Jayla Mack, High School

Mr. Collin Adkins, B.S. Degree

**Mrs. Stephanie Scott, standing
in for Mr. Johnathan Scott,
Master of Science Degree**

**Dr. Thalia Brown, standing in
for Miss Michaela Brown,
Master of Social Work**

Dr. Pamela Whitehead & Great Niece



Dr. Keisey Wilson & Mother



Mr. & Mrs. Johnathan Scott



Dr. Thalia Love



Mr. Collin Adkins and Mother



Mr. Michael Clark & Mother



Miss Jayla Mack, Mother, and Friend



St. John Open for Service Sunday, June 6, 2021

Praise God from whom all blessings flow was the opening hymn of praise on Sunday, June 6, 2021. After fifteen months, from March 15, 2020 to June 6, 2021, of being away from traditional worship, St. John AME Church carefully opened the sanctuary to the congregation. It was a very sprit filled service. The fifty attendees were thrilled to be back in worship with other members of the congregation, and to be able to sing, pray and praise together.

It was a blessing to see the traditional things related to worship in the sanctuary that had not been seen during the fifteen months of online worship. The choir members, though limited, were in the choir stand. The pulpit was occupied by the ministers. The Stewardesses were dressed and attended the dressed alter. The Stewards and ushers were in their traditional black attire for first Sunday.

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II preached a fitting sermon, "Don't Stop Looking For It," Faith that is. The sermon was based on the Old Testament scripture of Hebrews 11:1-3 regarding Faith. He left the congregation with three points to consider in the matter of Faith:

1. God is in the business of restoring things in the Christians' life, if they have faith.
2. God will set believers as a precedence. If one has faith, one is a priority to God.
3. Faith, has believers making plans for the future.

The worship service was followed with Holy Communion on this the opening of the sanctuary after fifteen months of the Corona virus epidemic. The service closed with prayer and thanksgiving.



At the close of service, Pastor Wright, the Reverend Joretha Wright and the congregation prayed for, and said our good-byes to the Cade family. The Cades will be moving to the middle eastern country of Qatar.



The congregation celebrated Holy Communion.

Church School Lesson Overview – July 2021

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer

July 4, 2021

Lesson Title: An Attitude of Gratitude

Lesson Scripture: Leviticus 13-14; Luke 5:12-16; 17:11-19

Print: Leviticus 13:45-46; Luke 17:11-19

Devotional Songs: #525[], #272[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice" (Luke 17:15).

Another of Jesus' powerful miracles is looked at in this lesson. There are features that other of His miracles do not have. Leviticus has good background to the thought behind Jesus's instructions to the lepers, as during that time, the priests were given authority to say who was a leper, to suggest a treatment, and to say who was healed. In understanding the priest's role one can greater appreciate why Jesus gave the instructions to the lepers that He gave.

July 11, 2021

Lesson Title: The Power of the Gospel

Lesson Scripture: Romans 1

Print: Romans 1:8-17

Devotional Songs: #464[], #251[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

In this lesson, believers get a glimpse of how Paul shared his understanding of the hope of salvation through faith, as the Apostle's basic belief that God's righteousness shines through persons who live by faith. Paul taught that salvation is there for all and points out how others are reconciled to God through faith.

July 18, 2021

Lesson Title: The Faith of Abraham

Lesson Scripture: Romans 4

Print: Romans 4:1-12

Devotional Songs: #415[], #258[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness" (Romans 4:3b).

In this lesson, readers see Paul, as he made his case for justification by faith, striking a balance between what the Jews already believed, and the updated position that Paul offered them. He built upon parts of what the Jews already held in belief with their most revered persons, Abraham, to emphasize his point.

God required a sacrifice for the atonement of sin by Jewish law, which Paul accepted as a given point. He then pointed out how Jesus was that sacrifice. God had provided the per-

fect sacrificial lamb for himself, as Jesus fulfilled the law's requirements for all people.

July 25, 2021

Lesson Title: Justification Through Faith

Lesson Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

Print: Romans 5:1-11

Devotional Songs: #84[], #77[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

In this lesson Paul presents his thoughts and concepts for salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Sin came into the world through Adam's actions and salvation. The cure for sin also came to the world by the actions of one man as well, Jesus Christ.

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Miss Michaela J. Brown



Miss Michaela Janise Brown, Class of 2021

Master of Social Work in

Community Organizing, Planning,
and Development

Hunter College—City University of New York

Silberman School of Social Work

Miss Brown is the daughter of
Dr. Thalia Love- Brown and
the late Jason J. Brown

Jesus Heals a Leper

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Mark 1:40-41

Based on Mark 1:40-45



N F I G T X F X A R J H F X N
J V C L E A N S S L U A D F Y
U B T R T W E P S B E N T H N
P Y B N Y E S H G E D D O G U
S N S U N L D N U G E Q W O M
L C P K E M I Y B G Q S N V J
C C P N G L A Y I E G T H U O
D U O E L E A N L D E O E K M
A R C I O F H Q E W N S I B A
O E W I W P P K P L S R U V K
H D D B F V L P R T A L K N E
M I M B V S I E O W J F Q S S
V P R I E S T F S P Z P E W H
P Z R B O R D D Y D R H E Q F
C T O U C H E D F M W N P P C

PEOPLE
CLEAN
TALK

LEPROSY
TOUCHED
MAN

NEWS
HAND
BEGGED

CURED
PRIEST
TOWN

KNEES
MAKE
WILLING

During the months of June, July and August
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=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09)
[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09)

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



"Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

A Message from the YPD
Director, Mrs. Deidre Walton

- Check out the 9th district YPD Facebook page
- Contact Mrs. Walton at deetergatesjones@gmail.com, stypdhsv@gmail.com, or (703-772-1121).

St. John AME Church
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President
Young People's Division
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director

Thank You!

To Pastor Wright and the members of St.
John AME Church.

Thank you seems insignificant for all the
kindnesses shown me, and my family during
the passing of my mother-in-law.

The cards, calls, text messages and prayers
were warmly received, and were a comfort to
me more than you know.

Thank you again. Your thoughtfulness will
always be remembered.

Be blessed,
Sister Renee Booker & Family

Thank You!

St. John AME Church,

Thanks for remembering me with a gift.

Thank you
it was so kind of you!

Deaconess Ernestine Barnes-Ivery





Church School Book Club

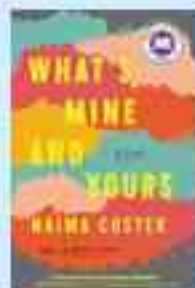
June 2021

Discussion Date: June 19, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

It's Not All Downhill from Here: A Novel, McMillan, Terry, 2020.

July 2021

Discussion Date: July 17, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.



What's Mine and Yours, Coster, Naima, 2021.

A community in the Piedmont of North Carolina rises in outrage as a county initiative draws students from the largely Black east side of town into predominantly white high schools on the west. For two students, Gee and Noelle, the integration sets off a chain of events that will tie their two families together over the next twenty years.

On one side of the integration debate is Jade, Gee's steely, ambitious mother. In the aftermath of a harrowing loss, she is determined to give her son the tools he'll need to survive in America as a sensitive, anxious, young Black man. On the other side is Noelle's headstrong mother, Lacey May, a white woman who refuses to see her half-Latina daughters as anything but white. She strives to protect them as she couldn't protect herself from the influence of their charming but unreliable father, Robbie.

When Gee and Noelle join the school play meant to bridge the divide between new and old students, their paths collide, and their two seemingly disconnected families begin to form deeply knotted, messy ties that will shape the trajectory of their adult lives. And their mothers—each determined to see her child inherit a better life—will make choices that will haunt them for decades to come.

As love is built and lost, and the past never too far behind, *What's Mine and Yours* is an expansive, vibrant tapestry that moves between the years, from the foothills of North Carolina, to Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Paris. It explores the unique organism that is every family: what breaks them apart and how they come back together.

—Amazon

Young Readers' Café

St. John Member's Favorites

The following selections were submitted by Ms. Paula Pippen, Curriculum Specialist with the Huntsville City School System.

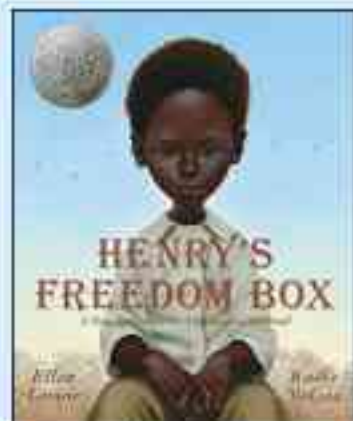
Valerie Flournoy



Twenty years ago Valerie Flournoy and Jerry Pinkney created a warmhearted intergenerational story that became an award-winning perennial. Since then children from all sorts of family situations and configurations continue to be drawn to its portrait of those bonds that create the fabric of family life.

—Amazon

Ellen Levine



A stirring, dramatic story of a slave who mails himself to freedom by a Jane Addams Peace Award-winning author. The artist is a Coretta Scott King Award winning artist.

Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. All the time he dreams about freedom, but that dream seems farther away than ever when he is torn from his family and put to work in a warehouse. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: He will mail himself to the North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday -- his first day of freedom.

—Amazon

Military Ministry News

LTC. (Ret.) Felicia Carter

Army Makes History Promoting Black Woman Chaplain to Colonel

Chaplain (Col) Monica R. Lawson said: 'Just in case you didn't figure it out, it took us 245 years for this moment to happen.'

The Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corps

The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps celebrates its birthday each year on July 29th, the day it was authorized by the Continental Congress. There are commemorative gatherings across the globe held by Army Chaplains, Chaplain Assistants, and other support troops to observe the birthday of the Corps.

3 Banks, Adelle, "The Anniversary of the Army chaplain Corps". September 3, 2020.



The Rev. Maurice Lawson, left, and Artha Denard, right, change the jacket shoulder insignia for Chaplain (Col) Monica R. Lawson, center, during her promotion ceremony to colonel on Sept. 2, 2020, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Photo courtesy of USAC HCS

The St. John AME Military Ministry

The St. John AME Military Ministry will meet on the first Thursday of each month via ZOOM.
Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Point of contact: Sister Felicia Carter, 256-529-2667

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NIUTN0NkZxVjR4WlRbXkdKTm9oZW09)

[pwd=c2NIUTN0NkZxVjR4WlRbXkdKTm9oZW09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NIUTN0NkZxVjR4WlRbXkdKTm9oZW09)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 51a1rF

One tap mobile

+1 929 205 6099 ,73469179993# ,...*078010# US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 ,73469179993# ,...*078010# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 888 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 078010

Find your local number: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NIUTN0NkZxVjR4WlRbXkdKTm9oZW09)



The Lay Organization of the AME Church

Claud inette Purifoy-Fears



The Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is commissioned to teach, train, and empower its members for lay ministry, global leadership and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ. Our purpose is to organize and train the lay members of the A.M.E. Church, so that each member may utilize to the maximum the abilities and skills granted by God, in assisting with the improvement and extension of God's kingdom, and creating happiness, peace and harmony among its members. The purpose can be accomplished by several objectives, such as instilling an appreciation of the history and traditions of African Methodism, providing training in Christian stewardship, and encourage lay members to participate in the general functioning, and supervision of the African American Episcopal Church.

The Lay Organization is one of the most influential organizations within the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This due to the Lay fostering influence, and support of constructive, and progressive legislation that affect our church connectionally.

St. John members who are not clergy are eligible to become members of the Lay Organization. We invite the members to learn about the history of the AME Church, what it means to be an AME, how our Church operates and most importantly how each member fits in the equation. You are the Lay and we need you! We invite all members to join us at our next meeting on 19 July 2021. Meetings are held via ZOOM, until otherwise noted.

St. John AME Lay Officers

2020-2021 Conference Year

President.....	Brother Hodges Washington
1st. Vice President.....	Sister Erica Harbin
2nd. Vice President.....	Sister Nedra McDaniel
Recording Secretary.....	Sister Patricia Grier
Assistant Secretary.....	Sister Charlsie Brooks
Treasurer.....	Sister Thalia Love-Brown
Chaplain.....	Brother Clifton Miller
Public Relations Director.....	Sister Lorraine Parham
Parliamentarian.....	Sister Monica Dillihut
Director of Lay Activities.....	Sister Sharon Butler
Immediate Past President.....	Sister Cassandra Thompson



Deaconess Ernestine Barnes-Mery, the Reverend Jor etha Wright, Ace Johnson with the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Blake Johnson, Ms. Pamela Little, Mr. & Mrs. Carver C. Myhand.

Welcome Our New Member!

St. John AME Church gained a new member on Sunday, May 2, 2021 when little, Ace Johnson was baptized by the Reverend Maurice Wright, II. Witnessing this event were his mother, Ms. Pamela Little, brother, Mr. Blake Johnson and grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Carver Myhand.



Announcements



Worship Service Live Streaming

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

Audio Listening only of the 10:00 am worship service (3 steps)

1. First, Dial.....**321-626-6799**
2. Next, dial**889-5387-3674**
3. Then, dial**090 252**

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study
6:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

Bible Study each Wednesday evening via ZOOM.
ZOOM Link is sent out to the congregation on email.
Discussion topic: Nehemiah: Rebuilding the Wall
Contact the church office for a copy of the lesson outline.
Email: office@stjohnhuntsville.com
Phone: 256-534-3265



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using
Givelify, Paypal, CashApp@SSTJOHNHSV 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	☒ Check each box that applies	Amount
☐ Member, check box if change of address				☐ Tithes	_____
Name _____				☐ Offering	_____
Address _____				☐ Benevolence	_____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____				☐ Sunday School	_____
Phone _____ Email _____				☐ Soup Kitchen	_____
Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____				☐ Daniel Payne	_____
☐ Verified				☐ Building Project	_____
				☐ Holiday Food Box	_____
				☐ Other	_____
				TOTAL	_____

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Communion Element Pick-up 10:00-12:00 noon
4 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Holy Communion AMEN Deadline	5 10:00 a.m. Rtly-Plus Meeting Via ZOOM 5:00 p.m. History Males Ministry 5:00 p.m. CPR Ministry	51st Quadrennial Session of the General Conference Orlando, Florida				
11 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	12	13	14 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	15 Military Ministry Meeting via ZOOM 6:00pm-7:30 pm	16	17 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
37th Biennial Convention of the AME Connectional Lay Organization Orlando, Florida						
18 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	19 Lay Organization Meeting 6:00 pm Via ZOOM	20 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	21 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	22	23	24 10:00 a.m. WNE Meeting
25 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	26	27 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	28 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	29	30	31

St. John AME Church Survey
Sponsored by the Board of Stewards' Congregational Care Committee

St. John AME Member (s),

Please take five minutes to complete this church survey. Each member is thanked in advance for their participation. A fair and honest response will be appreciated. The results will be used to make improvements where necessary. Names are not required on the survey.

Members can submit a hardcopy by either printing this survey or completing the survey pages from the newsletter. Then mail the pages to the church. Mail to;

St. John AME Church
ATTN: Church Survey
229 Church Street
Huntsville, AL 35801

Or members can take the online survey. Copy and paste this link in the web browser. The survey will be displayed.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RQPLRQP>

Use a blue or black pen. Mark your selection with an X in the blank.

1. Please identify your age group.

- ☐ 18-40
☐ 41-60
☐ 61-80
☐ 81 and above

2. Please identify your gender

- ☐ Male ☐ Female

3. How do you receive the St. John AMEN newsletter?

- ☐ By email ☐ By U.S. Mail (hard copy)
☐ Both ☐ I do not receive the newsletter

4. How have you been affected by COVID-19?

- ☐ Emotionally ☐ Financially
☐ Spiritually ☐ All the above ☐ None of these

5. What platform are you using to view the Sunday worship service?

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Facebook Live ☐ The St. John Facebook page
☐ Vimeo ☐ St. John's YouTube page
☐ None

(Continued on page 23)

St. John Church Survey

(Continued from page 22)

6. How often do you view the online Sunday worship service?
☐ Weekly ☐ 2-3 times a month ☐ not at all
7. How would you rate the quality of the online Sunday service viewing experience?
☐ Very poor ☐ Poor ☐ Acceptable
☐ Very good ☐ Exceptional
8. What is your preferred method of giving?
☐ Givelify
☐ CashApp@STJOHNHSV
☐ PayPal
☐ U. S. Mail
☐ Drive-through Communion Pick-up
☐ Direct Deposit-Bank Automatic Draft
☐ The offertory envelop/in person giving
9. Church School is conducted every Sunday via ZOOM. What can be done to increase participation? Rate the top three with 1 being most important.
☐ Offer it at a different time
☐ Make the discussions more interactive
☐ Discuss more relevant topics
☐ Provide a contemporary session
☐ Continue the traditional session where scripture is discussed and related to current events
☐ None of the above
10. During this pandemic, every effort has been made to keep the congregation informed of events and activities. Are you receiving communication from the church? Check all that apply
☐ Yes, I receive the Call Outs
☐ Yes, I receive emails from the church
☐ Yes, I see the announcements on Facebook
☐ I do not receive any communications from the church
☐ I see the announcements at the beginning of the worship service

Thank You for completing the survey. Please mail the survey to the church office.

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

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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

Important Dates to Remember

- June 15, 2021, Ninth District CEC
- June 20, 2021, Father's Day
- June 20, 2021, the next opportunity for in-person worship. Members must register with Eventbrite or call the church office if they plan to attend.



INDJJC

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 26 Issue 7

July 2021



A Time to Rest

B. Johnson

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens," Ecclesiastes 3. There is a time to work and a time to rest, restore, refresh, relax, and renew. For the last sixteen months, everyone while sequestered in the safety of their homes have been working under rigorous, and sometimes stressful circumstances.

Parents became teachers, guidance counselors, activity directors, lunchroom managers, and college prep coaches.

Children, students from kindergarten to college, communicated with instructors via ZOOM, on laptops, iPads, and some even had to struggle with cellphones. Everyone working from home became IT technicians and ZOOM experts. They learned how to shop for food, and for the basic necessities online. Committee chairpersons learned how to share their screens, host a meeting, and keep it under an hour.

Worship did not stop. The congregation learned how to type "Amen" and "Hallelujah" during the online service. Members learned how to choose the Emoji that best expressed their spiritual emotions. The Word was scattered even further via the online service, and increased membership with new members joining from across the country.

The news of church activities and celebrations never stopped. Members received the St. John AMEN newsletter every month during the pandemic, though delivered late sometimes by the postal service. Nevertheless, the congregation was kept informed, updated, and apprised of happenings at the church. Kudos to the St. John AMEN newsletter staff.

Applause, and a hardy AMEN to those who kept the worship service going for sixteen months. The media team, the ministerial staff, the music ministry, the office staff, the soup kitchen volunteers, the security team, the Stewards and Trustees. Thank you.

So, when the pastor called for a retreat during the month of July, everyone exhaled. An opportunity now presents itself for everyone to rest, relax, restore, recuperate, recover, and rejuvenate themselves. It is hoped that all will take advantage of this downtime, and really rest. There is a time for everything.

Relax • Refresh
Renew

**African Methodist Episcopal Church
Connectional Lay Organization**

**The 37th Biennial Convention
July 11-12, 2021
Orlando, Florida**

Convention Theme: "Greater Together: A Calling to Fulfill" 1Peter 2:9

Mission Statement

The Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is commissioned to teach, train, and empower its members for lay ministry, global leadership and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ.

The Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to organize and train the laity of the African Methodist Church so that lay persons may maximally utilize their God given abilities and skills to improve and extend the kingdom to create happiness, peace, and harmony among its members.

St. John's Delegates to the 37th Biennial Lay Convention

Brother Hodges Washington,
President of the St. John AME Church Lay Organization

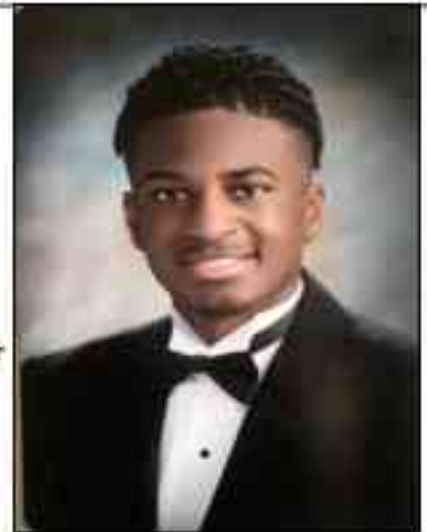
The Reverend Maurice Wright, II
Servant Pastor
St. John AME Church

AME Proud



Mr. Michael James Clark was honored by the Northwest Alabama Conference during their Salute to High School Senior Day. Mr. Clark is a recent graduate of Madison Academy High School. He is a member of St. John AME Church, and has been very active in the Young People's Division.

He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Clark.



Mr. Michael James Clark



Ms. Melody Rowland

St. John AME Church proudly welcomes as a new member, Ms. Melody Rowland. Ms. Rowland has transitioned to St. John from Bethel AME Church, Ensley, Alabama under the pastoral leadership of the Reverend Wm. Jermaine Richardson. She is a recent graduate of Jacksonville State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication with a concentration in digital media, broadcast media, and journalism.

Ms. Rowland is no stranger to African Methodism, her mother is the Reverend Dr. Jacqueline Long of St. Thomas AME Church in Greensboro, Alabama.

She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Welcome to St. John AME, Ms. Rowland. We look forward to getting to know you.

Church School Lesson Overview – August 2021

The reviews were written by Brother Kenneth Parham.

August 1, 2021

Lesson Title: Salvation for All Who Believe

Lesson Scripture: Romans 10:5-17

Print: Romans 10:5-17

Devotional Songs: #221[], #251[], and #243[]

Key Verse: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13 (NRSV)

In this lesson Apostle Paul addresses how one has faith without seeing. In his discussion he makes a comparison between those born during Moses' time and those born during the time that Christ walked on the earth.

During the time of Moses, there was the Law. One was born under the Law, one was taught the law, one (hopefully) had faith in the Law, lived by the law and therefore salvation was granted to those who were faithful (unto the Law) unto God.

Those who experienced the life of Christ as a man were witnesses to miracles, were taught the teachings of Christ, knew of Christ's quest to bring salvation to man-kind, and knew of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. Apostle Paul indicated Jesus taught that salvation was a two-phase approach; a belief of the heart and verbal confession of the mouth.

The first group's belief system was primarily a state of mind approach derived from custom and cultural perspective. Whereas the latter group had an emotional or state of heart approach in examining the spiritual relationship between God and man.

August 8, 2021

Lesson Title: Meaning of Faith

Lesson Scripture: Hebrews 11:13-19

Lesson Print: Hebrews 11:1-8, 13-16

Devotional Songs: #450[]; #272[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 (NRSV)

This lesson, as noted by the key verse, starts out by giving us a definition of faith. Having faith means one believes in the unbelievable. Just imagine as it is recorded, God's creation, the worlds were from the Word. The lesson highlights four men who lived the definition of faith; Abel, Enoch, Abraham and Noah. Each man did the unthinkable, they lived their lives in faith and even died in faith believing in a heavenly future promised to them.

August 15, 2021

Lesson Title: A Persevering Faith

Lesson Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-39

Lesson Print: Hebrews 10:23-36

Devotional Songs: #351[]; #77[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who has promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23." (NRSV)

The writer of this scriptural text is relaying a message from the one who is faithful, Jesus Christ. This faithful one is the one who answered the call, (verse 6) "...Here I am ... I have come to do your will, my God" when God (who no longer desired and who was no longer pleased with burnt offerings and sin offering) looked around heaven for a sacrificial lamb to save man. As Jesus was crucified, He was the sacrificial lamb to atone for man's sins. God forgave (and forgives) man's many sins and established a new covenant with man. Under the new covenant, man is ultimately responsible and accountable for his own sins and God will judge each man according to his/her works, those who are found worthy will be rewarded and those unworthy have a place in the lake of fire.

To those who are persecuted for following Christ, the messenger encourages us to continue to persevere even if it means being imprisoned for Christ. Continue to encourage one another concerning the love of God and continue to gather with one another. To those who continue to walk in darkness and those that continue to treat the blood of the covenant as an unholy thing, the messenger reminds those that God is a vengeful God.

August 22, 2021

Lesson Title: A Conquering Faith

Lesson Scripture: 1 John 4:5

Lesson Print: 1 John 4:2-3, 13-17; 5:4-5

Devotional Songs: #414[]; #258[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them." 1 John 4:16b (NRSV)

This lesson addresses how believers know they are God's children. Apostle John points out that any spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ (made flesh) is the living Son of God abides in the spirit of God. Apostle John also indicates that believers have known, and can bear witness of God's love and if God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them.

(Continued on page 5)

Church School Lesson Overview – August 2021

(Continued from page 4)

August 29, 2021

Lesson Title: Hope Eternal

Lesson Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:10

Lesson Print: 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:10

Devotional Songs: #394[]; #437[]; and #243[]

Key Verse: "If the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens." 2 Corinthians 5:1 (NRSV)

In this lesson, Apostle Paul provides spiritual encouragement for those in the twilight of life. Yes, all must yield to father time, and yes, our earthly bodies will waste away, but Apostle Paul asks that Christians stay lifted up because the afflictions that they bear are only preparing them for eternal glory.

Apostle Paul reminds Christians that, if this earthly body is destroyed, that God has prepared a building (body) not made by hand; and to remember that when believers are in this mortal body, that they are away from God, and that no matter our physical or spiritual state, our aim should be to please God.

During the months of July and August
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=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZz09)
[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZz09)

Meeting ID: 462 687 112
Password: 017348

From a telephone: One tap mobile
+1 312 626 6799, 462 687 112# US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099, 462 687 112# 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

Congratulations!

Congratulations, Brother Bobby Adkins, II on being honored at the 2021 Lockheed Martin Evening of Excellence Awards Banquet held virtually on June 29, 2021.

Brother Adkins, his wife Kay, and their two children are members of St. John AME Church.

Brother Adkins serves as a Sunday School teacher, a contributing writer for the St. John AMEN, and as a member of the Board of Stewards.



Brother Bobby Adkins, II

Young People's Division



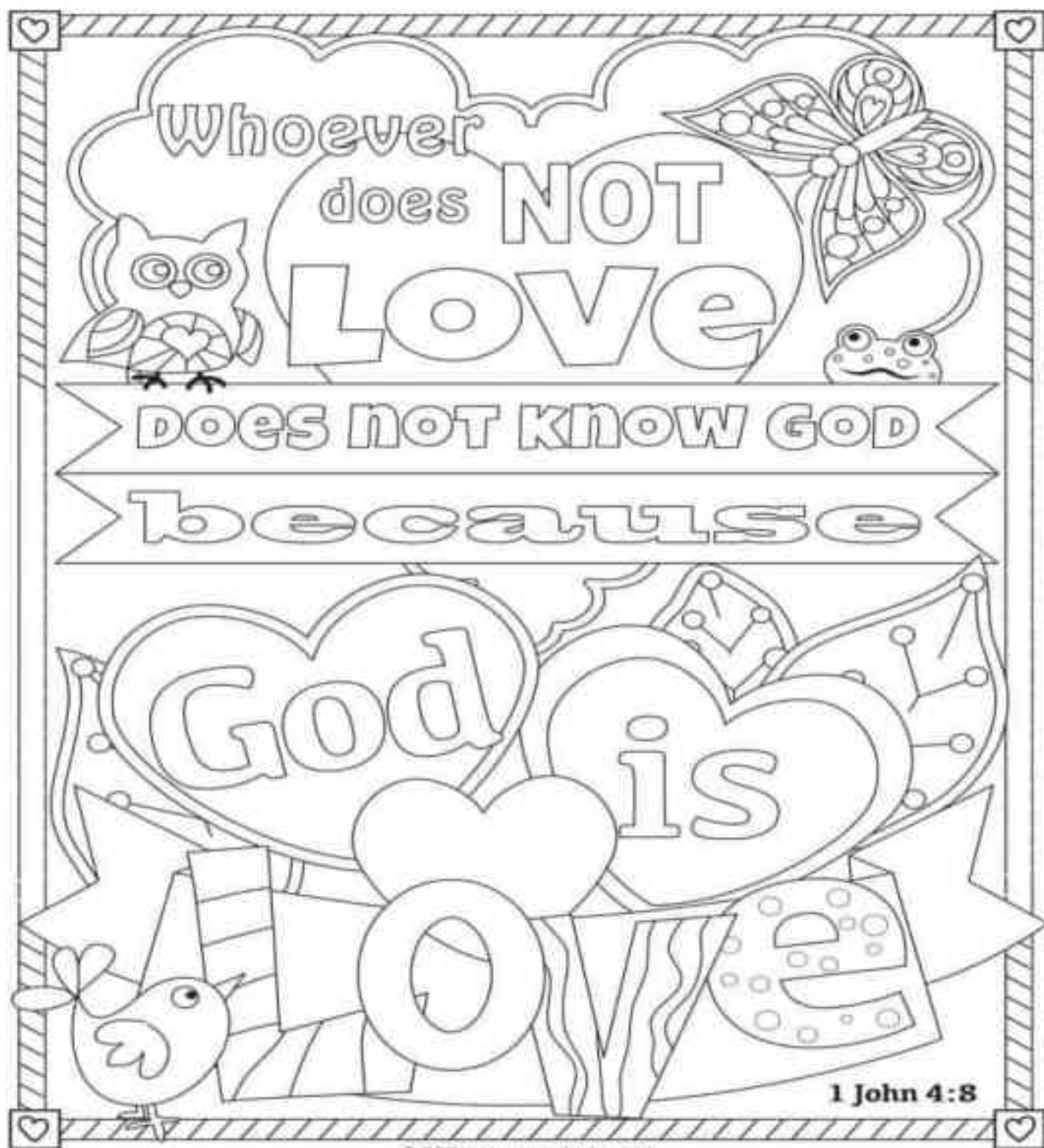
**"Growing, Glowing and
Going for Christ"**

**A Message from the YPD
Director, Mrs. Deidre Walton**

- Check out the 9th District YPD Facebook page
- Contact Mrs. Walton at deetergatesjones@gmail.com, stypdhs@gmail.com, or (703-772-1121).

St. John AME Church
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President
Young People's Division
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director

Kids' Corner



© 2021 truewaykids.com

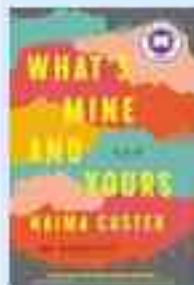
[Pinterest Post] Pinterest. Retrieved June 2021, from <http://pinterest.com>.



Church School Book Club

July 2021

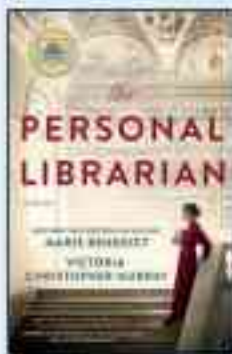
Discussion Date: July 17, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.



What's Mine and Yours, Coster, Naima, 2021.

August 2021

Discussion Date: August 21, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.



The Personal Librarian, Benedict, Marie, & Christopher-Murray, Victoria, 2021.

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection.

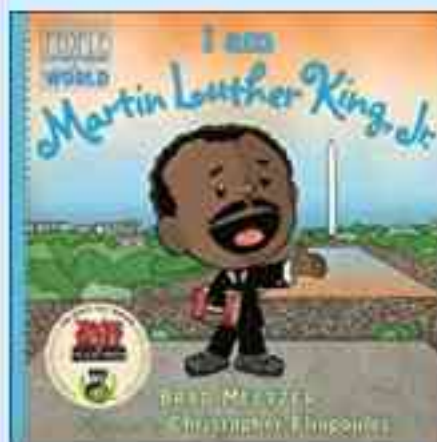
But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.

The Personal Librarian tells the story of an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style, and wit, and shares the lengths she must go to—for the protection of her family and her legacy—to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives. — Amazon

Young Readers' Café

St. John Member's Favorites

The following selections were submitted by Ms. Alice Hereford, Kindergarten and first Grade teacher, James A. Dawson Elementary School, Huntsville City Schools.



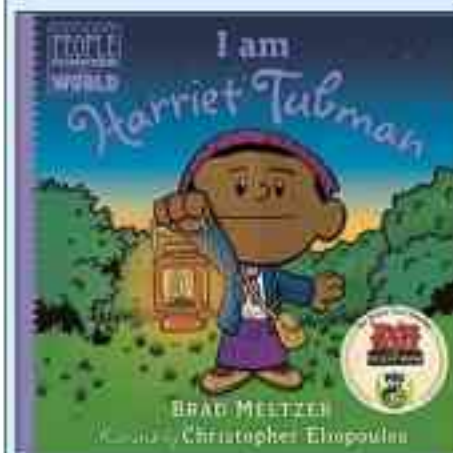
Brad Meltzer

Illustrated by

Christopher Eliopoulos

Kindergarten to

3 years old.



Brad Meltzer

Illustrated by
Christopher
Eliopoulos

Kindergarten to
3 years old

Military Ministry News

LTC. (Ret.) Felicia Carter

The St. John AME Military Ministry

The St. John AME Military Ministry will meet on the first Thursday of each month via ZOOM.
Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Point of contact: Sister Felicia Carter, 256-529-2667

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=czNIUTN0NkZxVjR4WlRlbnk4dktm9oZz09>

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993
Passcode: S1a1rF

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,73469179993#,,,*078010# US (New York)

+13017158592,,73469179993#,,,*078010# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 609 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 078010

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993>



Meeting Notices for July and August

July

- Fifty-Plus will not meet on the first Monday, July 5, 2021.
- The Caregivers Prayer and Respite (CPR) Ministry will not meet on Monday, July 5, 2021.
- The Lay Ministry will not meet on Tuesday, July 19, 2021.
- The Soup Kitchen Ministry will continue its meal preparations during the month of July on the 3rd and 4th Tuesday.
- The Church School Book Club will meet on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 10:00 am via ZOOM.
- The Women's Missionary Society will meet on Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 10:00 am via ZOOM.

August

- The Fifty-Plus Auxiliary will meet on Monday, August 2, 2021 via ZOOM at 10:00 am.
- The Caregivers Prayer and Respite (CPR) Ministry will meet on Monday, August 2, 2021 via ZOOM at 6:00 pm.
- Military Ministry will meet on the first Thursday, August 5, 2021 via ZOOM at 6:00pm.
- The Soup Kitchen Ministry will continue its meal preparations during the month of August on the 3rd and 4th Tuesday.
- The Church School Book Club will meet on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 10:00 am via ZOOM.
- The Lay Ministry will meet on Monday, August 23, 2021, via ZOOM at 6:00 pm.
- The Women's Missionary Society will meet on Saturday, August 28, 2021 via ZOOM at 10:00am.

Announcements



Worship Service Live Streaming

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

Audio Listening only of the 10:00 am worship service (3 steps)

1. First, Dial.....**312-626-6799**
2. Next, dial**889-5387-3674**
3. Then, dial**090 252**

St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study will resume in August

Conversational Bible Study
6:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

Bible Study each Wednesday evening via ZOOM.
ZOOM Link is sent out to the congregation on email.
Contact the church office for a copy of the lesson outline.
Email: office@stjohnhuntsville.com
Phone: 256-534-3265



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	_____

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Holy Communion AMEN Deadline	2 10:00 a.m. Fifty-Plus Meeting Via ZOOM 5:00 p.m. History Makers Ministry 6:00 p.m. CPR Ministry	3	4 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	5 Military Ministry Meeting via ZOOM 6:00pm-7:30 pm	6	7
8 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	9	10	11 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	12	13	14
15 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	16	17 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	18 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	19	20	21 10:00 a.m. Church School Book Club
22 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	23 Lay Organization Meeting 6:00 pm Via ZOOM	24 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SOUP KITCHEN	25 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	26	27	28 10:00 a.m. WNE Meeting
29 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	30	31				

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

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

Important Dates to Remember

- **Saturday, July 31, 2021, Communion Pick up from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.**
- **Friday, July 27, 2021 is the deadline for participating in the online St. John Church Survey and for submitting a hardcopy. Here is the website, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RQPLRQP>. A hardcopy of the survey was printed in the June issue of the St. John AMEN.**



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 26 Issue 8

August 2021



Bishop Anne Henning Byfield,
President
The Council of Bishops

Newly Elected President of the Council of Bishops Bishop Anne Henning Byfield

Anne Henning Byfield is one who dares to Live, Learn, Lead, and Love GOD. She lives a life filled with creativity and passion as a bishop, preacher, psalmist, poet, sacred word artist, strategic consultant, writer, composer, wife, mother and grandmother. Married to Ainsley for 45 years they have one son, Michael, and four grandchildren. She loves GOD and encourages others to know and love GOD as well.

As a leader, Bishop Anne Henning Byfield serves as the 135th elected and consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Her historic election in the year 2016 represents the first time in the history of the AME Church, a person was elected who had a sibling on the Council of Bishops, Bishop C. Garnett Henning. She serves as the Bishop of the 16th Episcopal District, where she provides leadership to seven annual conferences representing fourteen countries, in the Caribbean, South America, and Europe. She is the Chair of the Global Development Council, Commission on Women In Ministry, and World Methodist Evangelism. She is also a Golden Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

She is the author of three books: *Let the Worship Begin*, *The Essence of My Existence*, and *Produced by Strength, Living by Power*. She is the Co-Author of *Odyssey, A Girls Mentoring Program*, Editor of *From The Heart of A Leader*, and a contributor to several books including *Those Preaching Women*, International Edition, *Mr. President*, *Interfaith Perspectives on the Historic Presidency of Barack H. Obama*, and *Black Women and Black Girls Matter*. She wrote the lyrics for the Hymn for the Alabama State Wide Holiday Celebration of Rosa Parks, noted composer Dr. Uzee Brown wrote the music. She has the honor of a hymn she has written published in the *One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism Hymnal* was debuted at the 2018 Hampton Ministers and Music Conference. has a Spoken Word CD "*Flowing Essence*".

As a learner, she has a Bachelor's of Science degree from Wilberforce University, Master of Divinity degree from Newburgh Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity degree from Payne Theological Seminary, Doctor of Ministry Degree from Ashland Theological Seminary, and an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from R.R. Wright School of Religion, Johannesburg, South Africa. Her dissertation is entitled the *Effect of Short Notice Itinerant Moves on Pastors in the North District of the AME Church*.

She is the former Presiding Elder of the North District Indiana Annual Conference and of the South District Indiana Annual Conference. She is the first Presiding Elder who is female in the Fourth Episcopal District and considered first woman Presiding

(Continued on page 2)

Newly Elected President of the Council of Bishops Bishop Anne Henning Byfield

(Continued from page 1)

Elder in the AME connection whose father was a Presiding Elder. She served as Senior Pastor of three churches, Bethel AME Church, Bloomington, IN, Robinson Community AME Church, Indianapolis, and St. Paul AME Church, Detroit, MI. Evident at each church were sustained spiritual, numerical, and financial growth, along with significant capital improvements.

She has received numerous awards including the Jarena Lee Preaching Award; the Legacy Award for over 25 years of leadership in Pastoral Health Initiatives particularly in the HIV/AIDS community; one of eight religious history makers in the Indianapolis Community, one of the most 15 influential African Americans in Indianapolis and was named as one of its ten most influential pastors. She is a 2020 recipient of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference Beautiful Are Your Feet Award, recipient of the Indiana Christian Drum Major for Peace and Justice Award, among others.

She is a former adjunct faculty member for Christian Theological Seminary and conducts various mentoring and coaching groups. She is a former Assistant Director of Department of Labor Contract Compliance, Indianapolis. During her tenure she worked on or supervised numerous cases which desegregated Steel Mills of the United States and several fortune 500 Companies. As a Bishop she has established a vocational school in Haiti, re-established the AME Church in Cuba, planted or received ten churches; one of which is in Belize, where no AME Church existed, two are in Bahia, again where no AME Church existed, and dedicated four newly built churches and paid off the mortgage of the Episcopal Residence.

Byfield, Anne Henning. (n.d.). *President of the council of bishops*. The Official Website of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. www.ame-church.



Newly Elected Bishops of the 51st Quadrennial Conference, 2021

2021 Annual Conference Schedule

12th Session of the Alabama River Regions Annual Conference

August 21—WMS & YPD Annual Conference

August 25 –27, 2021

Ward Chapel AME Church—Prattville

Reverend Darry Ervin, Host Pastor

Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson, Host Presiding Elder

12th Session of the Northwest Alabama Annual Conference

September 4— WMS & YPD Annual Conference

September 8 —10, 2021

DANIEL PAYNE COMMUNITY PLAZA

1500 Daniel Payne Drive, Birmingham, AL 35214

Nichols Temple AME Ensley, St. Paul AME Fairfield and St. John AME Graysville, Host Churches

Reverend Raymond Mayes, Reverend Levi Billups, III and Reverend Glenzel Davis-Edison, Host Pastors

Reverend Gloria Hall, Host Presiding Elder

12th Session of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference September 18—WMS & YPD

Annual Conference September 22-24, 2021

St. Luke AME Church—Eufaula

Reverend James Redding, Host Pastor

Reverend Dr. Frederick Sherrod, III, Host Presiding Elder

12th Session of the Northeast Alabama Annual Conference

October 2— WMS & YPD Annual Conference

October 6-8, 2021

Lee Chapel Auburn, St. Mark Opelika, St. Paul Opelika, St. Luke, Opelika, and St. Paul Lanett, Host Churches

Reverends Mattie Edwards, Joe Benton, Willie Lyles, Monique Summers and James Parker, Host Pastors

Reverend Dr. Letitia Waterford, Host Presiding Elder

12th Session of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference

October 16— WMS & YPD Annual Conference

October 20-22, 2021

Gaines Chapel AME Church—Atmore

Reverend Cletis Walker, Sr.

Reverend Charles Lewis, Host Presiding Elder

2021 Planning Meeting

November 4-6, 2021

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

*All dates are subject to change.

Back to school Prayer

~~~~~

Dear heavenly Father,  
As our children  
Return to school  
We look again  
To your eternal faithfulness.  
Watch over our beloved ones.  
Let your Spirit go before them  
To prepare the way  
And open the doors  
That lead to your grace.  
Guide them away from harm.  
May your mighty Spirit defend them  
From any aggression or attack.  
Equip them with discernment  
And strength of character.  
Let them be free to live and learn  
As children of God.  
Give us, dear Lord,  
The wisdom and patience  
To know when to speak or be still  
As their parents and caretakers.  
Always remembering  
That they are yours  
From the beginning;  
Their lives a loving gift to us  
From Almighty God.  
We trust in you,  
We depend upon you.  
Care for your children,  
Oh heavenly Father.  
In Jesus name,  
Amen.

[prayerforanxiety.com](http://prayerforanxiety.com)

## Community Engagement

Bobby Adkins, II



**ATTENTION:** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is extending the deadline for the REAL ID (called STAR ID in Alabama) to **May 3, 2023**, in response to COVID-19.

Effective May 3, 2023, every air traveler will need a REAL ID compliant license/ID (STAR ID) or another form of identification for domestic air travel. (See TSA's website for a full list of acceptable identification for domestic air travel.)

St. John AME HSV members, as the Federal Government has extended the deadline for getting the STAR I.D. it's easy to forget the new mandate or simply push out your timelines for getting the new identification card. With limited attention being paid to the new program, now is the time to act, while lines are relatively short and without an imminent deadline. Let's take a look at the STAR I.D. program.

### What is the STAR I.D.?

"Secure, Trusted, And Reliable," STAR ID is part of a nationwide effort to improve the integrity and security of state-issued driver licenses and identification cards, which, in turn, will help fight terrorism and reduce fraud.

### When did Alabama begin the states Pilot Program?

Alabama began a STAR I.D. pilot project in central Alabama Oct. 3, 2011, in the Driver License examining offices in Montgomery, Autauga and Chilton counties, and began issuing STAR I.D. statewide in early 2012. In order to comply with the Federal REAL ID Act, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency developed the STAR ID program. STAR ID is a step beyond an ordinary Alabama driver's license or non-driver identification card and it meets all the requirements of federal law.

### Applying for an Alabama Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card

STAR IDs are issued originally to qualified individuals only at Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Driver License exam offices. County operated license offices will continue to provide renewals/duplicates for license, ID cards, and STAR ID. Once the provision of the REAL ID Act (STAR ID) goes into effect, individuals who do not have an unexpired U.S. passport will need an Alabama STAR ID to board commercial aircraft for domestic flights or to enter certain regulated federal facilities.

### WHAT Documentation is needed to apply for the new I.D. Card?

To be issued a STAR ID, applicants must present **four documents** to verify identity/date of birth, Social Security number and address of principal residence. Below is a list of accepted documents in each category. Please read carefully. Applicants must verify their identity and **date of birth by providing one of the following documents**:-

- Valid, unexpired United States Passport
- Certified Birth Certificate
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad (Form FS-240, DS-1350, or FS-545)
- Valid, unexpired Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551) issued by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)
- Unexpired employment authorization document (EAD) issued by DHS (Form I-766 or Form I-688B)
- Unexpired Foreign Passport with a valid, unexpired U.S. Visa affixed, accompanied by the approved I-94 form documenting the applicant's most recent admittance into the United States.
- Certificate of Naturalization issued by DHS (Form N-550 or N-570)
- Certificate of Citizenship issued by DHS (Form N-560 or N-561)

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Community Engagement

Bobby Adkins, II

*(Continued from page 5)*

\*If the applicant's name has changed from that displayed on the document produced (marriage, adoption, court order, etc), official documents verifying this change will be required.

**Applicants must verify their Social Security Numbers by providing one of the following documents:**

- Social Security card
- United States Military Form DD 214
- Medicare/Medicaid Identification Card (if Social Security Number is followed by the letter A)
- W-2 Tax Form
- Applicants must verify their address of principal residence by providing any two of the following documents:
- Valid Alabama Driver License or Identification Card displaying applicant's current address
- Voter Registration Card
- Residential Mortgage Contract
- Current Lease or Rental agreement for housing
- Proof of payment of residential property tax (Homestead)
- Previous year tax returns bearing applicants address
- Vehicle registration bearing applicants name and address
- Utility bill (Water, Gas, or Electric) less than 90 days old
- Any State or Federal Court documents indicating residence address
- School enrollment documentation
- Defense Department Form 214 (Report of Separation)
- Sex offender registration documents
- Current Homeowners insurance policy with name and address
- Social Security benefits statements/summary mailed to physical address
- U.S. or State Government check or other document mailed to applicants physical address
- Military Orders documenting duty station and place of residence.

\*If utility bills or other similar documents feature the name of the applicant's spouse or parent, the applicant must produce a marriage certificate or birth certificate verifying residence address.

Alabama Law Enforcement Agency offices issuing the STAR I.D. can be found at [Driver License Offices | Alabama Law Enforcement Agency \(alea.gov\)](https://www.alea.gov/Driver-License-Offices)

Reference: Alabama Law Enforcement Agency. (n.d.). Applying for an Alabama Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card. <https://www.alea.gov>.

**In Madison County the STAR ID can only be obtained at the**

**Driver's License Office at**

**1115-A Church Street**

**Huntsville, AL 35801**

**256-539-0682**

**Monday—Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm**

**Saturday, 7:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Open during lunch hours**



# Community Engagement

Bobby Adkins, II

It may be hard to believe, but the country is roughly 15 months away from the November 2022 Congressional Mid-Term Elections. The fallout from the November 2020 General Election is still underway, with the January 6<sup>th</sup> capitol riots having unnerved many who sought true democracy that reflects racial, ethnic and demographic representation. Simply put, voter suppression efforts are making a comeback, reminiscent of activity prior to Civil Rights Act legislation of the mid-1960s and featuring those old Jim Crow Era narratives. So, what can be done to ensure that the right to vote is available (and convenient) for every citizen, regardless of race, creed, or color?



## **VOTE!**

Once registered, do not miss an election; vote regularly.  
Ensure all personal voting criteria are met.  
Know where your voting precinct is located.  
Participate in local elections to ensure you remain eligible to vote.  
Vote as if your lives depend on it!

## **GET ACTIVE!**

Call local congressional representatives and encourage them to consider voting for the "For the People Act".  
Do not let them off the hook and do not believe a single voicing of concerns does not make a difference.  
Practice holding elected officials accountable.  
Make their lives difficult in a respectful, yet tactical manner.

## **What is the "For the People Act"?**

Originally introduced by John Sarbinos (D), 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, Maryland in 2019, the "For the People Act" is authored to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes. With the passing of Congressman and Civil Rights Icon, the Honorable John Lewis, there is a sense of urgency in getting this vital legislation passed.

## **When was the Act authored and presented?**

The "For the People" Act was introduced as the first piece of legislation of the 116<sup>th</sup> United States Congress. The House of Representatives passed the bill on March 8, 2019 along party-lines (234-193). The bill has been viewed as a "signature piece of legislation" from the Democratic majority. However, it was blocked from receiving a vote by the then Republican-controlled Senate.

## **What are the key elements of the Act?**

In addition to addressing Voting Rights, the bill addresses Election Security; Campaign Finance Reform; Ethics; Gerrymandering; and the Number of Federal Election Commissioners.

## **Key Voting Rights provisions include:**

- Require states to offer same-day voter registration for federal elections and to permit voters to make changes to their registration at the polls.
- It would require states to hold early voting for at least two weeks and would establish automatic voter registration for individuals to be eligible to vote in elections for federal office in the state.
- Under the automatic voter registration provision, eligible citizens who provide information to state agencies (including state departments of motor vehicles or public universities) would be automatically registered to vote unless they opt out of doing so.
- The bill would also expand opportunities to vote by mail and would make Election Day a federal holiday.

# Community Engagement

Bobby Adkins, Jr.

(Continued from page 7)

- The bill would require states to offer online voter registration, which has already been adopted in 39 states and the District of Columbia
- The bill would establish criminal penalties for persons who "corruptly hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from registering to vote" and for voter deception or intimidation (the bill would specifically "prohibit knowing and intentional communication of false and misleading information – including about the time, place, or manner of elections, public endorsements, and the rules governing voter eligibility and voter registration – made with the intent of preventing eligible voters from casting ballots").
- The bill would also authorize 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote in advance of their becoming 18.
- The bill would also prohibit the practice of voter caging and restrict the practicing of voter-roll purges by limiting states' ability to remove registered voters from the rolls and setting conditions for when they could do so.
- The bill would require states to obtain certain information before removing voters from the rolls and would prohibit voter purges from taking place less than six months before an election.
- The bill prohibits any person from communicating "materially false" claims meant to prevent others from voting 60 days before an election and compels the attorney general to correct such misinformation.
- The bill also requires election officials to timely notify any voter tagged for removal from the rolls and give them an opportunity to contest the removal or seek reinstatement of their registration.
- It also restores voting rights to felons who complete prison terms.



H.R. 1

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

## What is the latest?

In 2021, in the 117th Congress, congressional Democrats reintroduced the act as H.R. 1 and S. 1. On March 3, 2021, the bill passed the House of Representatives on a near party-line vote of 220–210, advancing to the Senate, which is split 50–50 between Democrats and Republicans, with Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris holding the tie-breaking vote. The bill had unified support in the Democratic caucus, but Senate Republicans blocked the bill with a filibuster on June 22, 2021, as it failed to obtain the 60 votes needed to invoke cloture after a party-line vote of 50–50.

## Now what?

- ♦ **Be attentive:** Take time to monitor legislation affect voting rights in the State Capitol.
- ♦ **Communicate:** Exercise access to local officials to voice concerns with the lack of passage of the "For the People Act".
- ♦ **Get active:** Consider partnering with local nonprofits that support the expansion of voting rights.

**YOUR VOTE  
IS  
YOUR VOICE**

## 2022 United States Elections

The 2022 United States elections will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. During the midterm election year, all 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and 34 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate will be contested. Thirty-nine state and territorial gubernatorial and numerous other state and local elections will also be contested. This will be the first election affected by the redistricting that will follow the 2020 United States Census.

## AME Proud!



Ms. Mariah Gullatte



**The World Games**  
2022 BIRMINGHAM, USA

The World Games Logo  
2022



Ms. Gullatte with  
Vulcan and Vesta in their newly  
designed costumes.



### Auburn Apparel, Hospitality Alumna Mariah Gullatte Designs Costumes for 2022 World Games Mascots Charlotte Tuggle

The World Games take place the year after the Summer Olympic Games. Next year's competition, is expected to bring 3,600 athletes from more than 100 countries to compete.

The World Games Committee trusted Gullatte to design costumes that would reflect not just the mascots, but the Games experience. Vulcan, Birmingham's existing mascot, and Vesta, his companion created for the games, had to be creative, functional, and full of personality.

"They wanted me to create a design that really reflects who they are as people and bring out their inner character. I worked in aesthetics that show these are athletic games, so they had to be able to walk, turn, flip — I don't know if Vulcan is as athletic as Aubie, but I definitely had to consider the type of environment, space, and audience they will be for," Gullatte said. "Vulcan and Vesta are based on the era of gods and goddesses, and I wanted their costumes to reflect that time, so I brought in lots of natural textures and patterns while still getting creative with their designs."

In 2019, Gullatte applied to be the World Games mascot costume designer through the World of Opportunity program, an initiative established by the Birmingham Organizing Committee to engage local, small, minority, and women-owned businesses to provide products and services to the games.

Gullatte received her master's in Hospitality Management on Saturday, August 7, 2021. She is actively seeking employment that will combine her love for design and hospitality, with plans to one day open her own retail boutique.

Ms. Mariah Gullatte is a member of St. John AME Church. She has always been actively engaged in activities at the church. She has participated in the YPD activities, locally and on the district level. She was actively engaged in St. John's Liturgical Dance Ministry.

Mariah is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Karl Gullatte and the granddaughter of Mrs. Lorene Jones.

Tuggle, Charlotte. 2021. Auburn University, College of Human Sciences. 8, August, 2021. <[http://humsci.auburn.edu/news/auburn\\_apparel\\_hospitality\\_alumna\\_mariah\\_gullatte\\_designs\\_costumes\\_for\\_2022\\_world\\_games\\_mascots.php?fbclid=IwAR1za3mN\\_7CHB60Qf1h903\\_gB-pwYEI0pfzaqYPK10WzPfwLCLs\\_wD3Aw4g](http://humsci.auburn.edu/news/auburn_apparel_hospitality_alumna_mariah_gullatte_designs_costumes_for_2022_world_games_mascots.php?fbclid=IwAR1za3mN_7CHB60Qf1h903_gB-pwYEI0pfzaqYPK10WzPfwLCLs_wD3Aw4g)>

## Church School Lesson Overview – September 2021

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer

### September 5, 2021

**Lesson Title:** Praise with Music

**Lesson Scripture:** Exodus 14:1-15:21

**Print:** Exodus 15:11-21

**Devotional Songs:** #450[], #251[], and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "Who among the gods is like you, Lord who is like you – majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?" (Exodus 15:11).

In ancient Israel's history, safely crossing the Red Sea was a crucial event. They were free and beyond Pharaoh's reach and influence. They responded to the new found freedom by bursting forth with joyous singing.

Exodus 15:11-21, from this lesson's text concerns their song. It is the first song in the history of this new nation and is a happy song of the victory that the Lord obtained for His people.

### September 12, 2021

**Lesson Title:** Praise in Dance

**Lesson Scripture:** 2 Samuel 6

**Print:** 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-19

**Devotional Songs:** #97[]; #272[]; and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrams and cymbals" (2 Samuel 6:5).

This lesson is about the moving of the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem, David's new capital city. The ark is the nation of Israel's most sacred object that was an ornate chest made to God's specifications around 1446 BC.

David was distracted as he secured his position as king the first seven or so years of his reign. After David secured his kingship, secured Jerusalem as his capital, and defeated the Philistines again, he turned his attention to the ark.

### September 19, 2021

**Lesson Title:** Praise by Expecting and Following

**Lesson Scripture:** Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

**Print:** Mark 10:46-52

**Devotional Songs:** #424[]; #77[]; and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "'What do you want me to do for you?' Jesus asked him. The blind man said, 'Rabbi, I want to see'" (Mark 10:51).

In this lesson it is noted that there was not a reliable cure for blindness in Jesus' day and little was known about its causes. Many believed blindness to be a curse from God for sinful behavior. The parents' sins were thought to affect their children and thus they were born blind.

In the book of Mark spiritual blindness and sight are important themes. Jesus let it be known that there would be people who saw His works, but would not understand the good news that He brought. At a later point in His ministry, Jesus chided them for their failure to understand His person and mission. "Do you have eyes but fail to see?" (8:18)

### September 26, 2021

**Lesson Title:** Praise for Salvation

**Lesson Scripture:** Acts: 2:32-33, 37-47

**Print:** Acts: 2:32-33, 37-47

**Devotional Songs:** #25[]; #258[]; and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42).

This lesson gives a dramatic example of how God can breathe new life into endangered people.

Luke a Gentile disciple and physician, wrote both the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. The author of the commentary refers to the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts as Part 1 and Part 2, respectively. Peter was the one speaking in this lesson text. It is likely that many in his audience were in Jerusalem during Jesus' trials, crucifixion, and resurrection, as it was normal for those making the yearly journey to observe the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread to hang around for the festival of Weeks. This latter became known as Pentecost.



## *Kids' Corner*

Praise in music.



[Pinterest Post] Pinterest. Retrieved August 2021, from <http://pinterest.com>

During the months of August and September  
Church School will meet on 200M.

**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=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09)  
[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWlR3NXZ09)

**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



### "Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

A Message from the YPD  
Director, Mrs. Deidre Walton

- Check out the 9th district YPD Facebook page
- Contact Mrs. Walton at [deetergatesjones@gmail.com](mailto:deetergatesjones@gmail.com), [stypdhsv@gmail.com](mailto:stypdhsv@gmail.com), or (703-772-1121).

St. John AME Church  
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society  
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President  
Young People's Division  
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director



Thank You!

Reverend Wright and the St. John Family,  
Thank you for your cards, calls, texts  
and words of encouragement during the  
passing of my sister-in-law, Mrs. Renea  
Allen.

Your expressions of love and concern  
were a comfort to my family and me. Your  
kindnesses will always be remembered.

In Christian Love,  
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Johnson



**September 12, 2021**



## Church School Book Club

August 2021

Discussion Date: August 21, 2021  
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.



*The Personal Librarian, Benedict, Marie, & Christopher Murray, Victoria, 2021.*

September 2021

Discussion Date: September 18, 2021  
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.



*Summer on the Bluffs: A Novel, Hostin, Sunny, 2021.*

Welcome to Oak Bluffs, the most exclusive black beach community in the country. Known for its gingerbread Victorian-style houses and modern architectural marvels, this picturesque town hugging the sea is a mecca for the crème de la crème of black society—where Michelle and Barack Obama vacation and Meghan

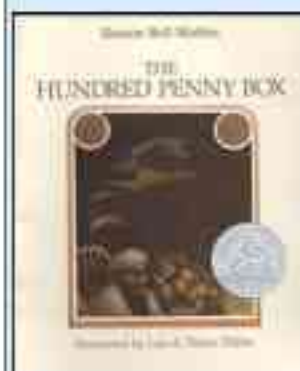
Markle has shopped for a house for her mom. Black people have lived in this pretty slip of the Vineyard since the 1600s and began buying property in the 1800s, making this posh town the embodiment of “old money.”

Thirty years ago, Amelia Vaux Tanner and her husband built a house high on the bluffs, a cottage they named Chateau Laveau. For decades, “Ama” played host to American presidents, Wall Street titans, and cultural icons. But her favorite guests have always been her three “goddaughters”: Esperanza “Perry” Soto, a beautiful, talented Afro-Latina lawyer with Ama’s strong, yet guarded personality; Olivia Jones, a gifted Wall Street analyst with Ama’s brilliant, logical mind; and Billie Hayden, a gifted marine biologist and rule-breaker with Ama’s courageous free spirit.

Growing up, these three goddaughters from different backgrounds came together each summer at Chateau Laveau. As adults, the cottage is a place this trio of successful yet very different women go to escape, to slow down from their hectic lives, share private time with Ama, and enjoy the gorgeous weather, cool water, and stunning views Oak Bluffs offers.

## Young Readers’ Café

### Editor’s Choice



**The Hundred Penny Box**

by Sharon Bell Mathis

A Newbery Award Winning book for grades 4-6.

Michael loves his great-great-aunt Dew, even if she can’t always remember his name. He especially loves to spend time with her and her beloved

hundred penny box, listening to stories about each of the hundred years of her life. Michael’s mother wants to throw out the battered old box that holds the pennies, but Michael understands that the box itself is as important to Aunt Dew as the memories it contains. Winner of a Newbery Honor, this beautiful story will be available in a collector’s edition featuring heavy interior stock embossing and silver ink on the cover, and a thread-sewn binding for added durability. A timeless story of the relationship between a boy and his elderly relative, this new edition is one that families young and old will treasure for years to come.

— Amazon

(continued)

This summer on the Bluffs, however, will be different. An era is ending: Ama, now nearing seventy-one, is moving to the south of France to reunite with her college sweetheart. She has invited Perry, Olivia, and Billie to spend one last golden summer together with her the way they did when they were kids. And when fall comes, she is going to give the house to one of them.

Each of the women wants the house desperately. Each is grappling with a secret she fears will hurt her and her chances. By the end of summer, old ties will fray, new bonds will be created, and these three found sisters will discover they aren’t the only ones with something to hide. Ama has a few secrets of her own. What she has to give them is far more than property. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, she will tell these surrogate daughters she fiercely loves and protects everything they never knew they needed to know. — Amazon

# Military Ministry News

LTC. (Ret.) Felicia Carter

## Turn Off the Lights

Twenty years after the most repugnant attack on our Nation kicked off the war in Afghanistan for the United States, the mission will officially come to an end on August 31, 2021. It is with gratitude that the news received be done so with reverence, respect and admiration for the men and women who answered the call to support and defend the Nation. We must do so in awe of the family members that supported the multiple tours of duty to Afghanistan. We must do so as we welcome home the last of our brave military men and women that may be mentally and physically challenged. It is a grateful nation that must honorably recognize that some did not get to come home, sacrificing their all to protect and defend.

Secretary Austin stated recently, "Our troops have accomplished the mission they were sent to Afghanistan to accomplish." Austin went on to say, "And they have much for which to be proud. Their service and their sacrifices, alongside those of our Resolute Support and Afghan partners, made possible the greatly diminished threat to all of our homelands from Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups."

There are two songs which come to the mind of this fellow soldier as a tribute to the brave men and women who gave their all for the love of this country.

The first is "God Has Kept Me" by the Wardlaw Brothers.

"...and there's been times every now and then, I wanted to throw the towel in. Didn't want to cry, didn't want to pray. Throw my hands in the air and just walk away. God never left me, never let me go. His grace and mercy always held me close. Every time I almost let go, God has kept me."

The second song that brought much comfort and especially at this time is "Let the Church Say Amen" by Andre Crouch featuring Marvin Winans.

"... God has spoken, let the church say Amen".



United States Secretary of Defense,  
General Lloyd Austin



*(Continued on page 15)*

# Military Ministry News

LTC. (Ret.) Felicia Carter

(Continued from page 14)

2 Timothy 4:7

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith".

God will always have the final word. St John AME Church family please join me in saluting our brave men and women returning from Afghanistan with a heartfelt

Welcome Home!!!!

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/photos>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6565429/secretary-austin-arrives-afghanistan>

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?=-black+marines+in+afghanistan> bing.com/  
images



## The St. John AME Military Ministry

The St. John AME Military Ministry will meet on the first Thursday of each month via ZOOM.

Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Point of contact: Sister Felicia Carter, 256-529-2667

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NIUTN0NkZxVjR4WlRbX0kKTm90Zz09)

[pwd=c2NIUTN0NkZxVjR4WlRbX0kKTm90Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NIUTN0NkZxVjR4WlRbX0kKTm90Zz09)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 51a1rF

One tap mobile

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 888 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 078010

Find your local number: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NIUTN0NkZxVjR4WlRbX0kKTm90Zz09)



## Reflections on Lives Well Lived



**Mrs. Bessie Mae Matlock Smith**  
September 4, 1933—June 16, 2021

Mrs. Bessie Mae Matlock Smith was born in September 4, 1933 to the late John Matlock and Clara Bradley Matlock in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She transitioned this earthly life peacefully on June 16, 2021 after battling

COVID-19 complications.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Smith is preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Colonel Earnest Charles (E. C.) Smith, and a twin sister Dessie Matlock Thompson.

Mrs. Smith attended Coleman High School in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. While attending Coleman, Bessie and Dessie led the Girl's High School Basket Ball Team in winning two back-to-back Arkansas State Championships (1949 and 1950.) Bessie, a dominating scorer, won individual Girls High School Basketball All-American honors.

After moving to Huntsville, Alabama the Smiths joined St. John AME Church under the leadership of the Reverend S. S. Hereford. Col. & Mrs. Smith made St. John their home, serving in many organizations and ministries.

Mrs. Bessie Smith was well known for her superb cooking talents. She was very instrumental in providing food service for the entire congregation for all occasions. Mrs. Smith left her mark with the churches she called home; St. John AME, Walking on Water Christian Church, Birmingham, AL and Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville.

Mrs. Smith leaves to cherish her memory, four loving and devoted sons: LT Colonel (Ret.) Earnest C. Smith, Jr., Major (Ret.) Keith C. Smith, the Reverend Dr. Karnie C. Smith, and Dr. Oydale C. Smith; eight grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and loved ones will fondly remember Mrs. Bessie Mae Matlock Smith.

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II Servant Pastor, and the members of St. John AME Church join the family in grieving the loss of Mrs. Bessie Mae Matlock Smith.



**Mr. Jerry Wayne Patton**  
May 1, 1950 - July 1, 2021

Mr. Jerry Wayne Patton was born May 1, 1950 to the late Ms. Florence Patton of Limestone County Alabama. He was married to the late Mamie Patton for 49 years. He confessed hope in Christ and joined St. John AME Church under the

leadership of the Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall on June 18, 1995. Mr. Patton joined the Senior Usher Board and served faithfully until his health began to fail. Jerry loved his family, church, and his friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Florence Patton; four siblings: Vara Williams, Charles Patton, Aaron Patton, and Michael Patton.

Jerry leaves to cherish his memory, two sons, Anthony Patton, Jerry Patton, Jr., (Huntsville, Alabama) and one daughter Wanada (Aditral) Arthamala of Tampa, Florida.

### The Measure of a Man

Not—How did he die? But—How did he live?  
Not—What did he gain? But—What did he give?  
These are the things that measure the worth  
Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.  
Not—What was his station? But—had he a heart?  
And—How did he play his God-given part?  
Was he ever ready with a word of good cheer?  
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?  
Not—What was his church? Not—What was his creed?  
But—Had he befriended those really in need?  
Not—What did the sketch in the newspaper say?  
But—How many were sorry when he passed away?  
These are the things that measure the worth  
Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.  
—Anonymous

The Reverend Maurice Wright, II Servant Pastor, and the members of St. John AME Church join the family in grieving the loss of Mr. Jerry Wayne Patton.

# THE HISTORIC ST. JOHN AME CHURCH

WWW.STJOHNHUNTSVILLE.COM  
229 Church Street—Huntsville, AL 35801



## Pastoral Celebration

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021 - 10:00 A.M.

HONORING

*The Reverend Maurice Wright, II & Family*

GUEST SPEAKER

Reverend Dr. Timothy Tyler, Pastor  
Shorter AME Church—Denver, Colorado



## Announcements



### Worship Service Live Streaming

The 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms:

- Church website: [www.stjohnhuntsville.com](http://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

### Audio Listening only of the 10:00 am worship service (3 steps)

1. First, Dial.....**321-626-6799**
2. Next, dial .....**889-5387-3674**
3. Then, dial .....**090 252**

### St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

Bible Study each Wednesday evening via ZOOM.  
ZOOM Link is sent out to the congregation on email.

#### Discussion topic: **Study of Job**

Contact the church office for a copy of the lesson outline.

Email: [office@stjohnhuntsville.com](mailto:office@stjohnhuntsville.com)

Phone: 256-534-3265



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using  
Givelify, Paypal, CashApp@SSTJOHNHSV 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 _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Visitor <input type="checkbox"/> Member<br><input type="checkbox"/> Member, check box if change of address<br>Name _____<br>Address _____<br>City _____ State _____ Zip _____<br>Phone _____ Email _____<br>Cash Amount _____ Check Amount _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Verified | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">➤ Check each box that applies</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Amount</th> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Tithes</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Offering</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Soup Kitchen</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Payne</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Building Project</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Food Box</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table> | ➤ Check each box that applies | Amount | <input type="checkbox"/> Tithes | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Offering | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Soup Kitchen | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Payne | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Project | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Food Box | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ | <b>TOTAL</b> | _____ |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |        |                                 |       |                                   |       |                                      |       |                                        |       |                                       |       |                                       |       |                                           |       |                                           |       |                                |       |              |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |        |                                 |       |                                   |       |                                      |       |                                        |       |                                       |       |                                       |       |                                           |       |                                           |       |                                |       |              |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soup Kitchen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |        |                                 |       |                                   |       |                                      |       |                                        |       |                                       |       |                                       |       |                                           |       |                                           |       |                                |       |              |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Payne                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |        |                                 |       |                                   |       |                                      |       |                                        |       |                                       |       |                                       |       |                                           |       |                                           |       |                                |       |              |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |        |                                 |       |                                   |       |                                      |       |                                        |       |                                       |       |                                       |       |                                           |       |                                           |       |                                |       |              |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Food Box                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |        |                                 |       |                                   |       |                                      |       |                                        |       |                                       |       |                                       |       |                                           |       |                                           |       |                                |       |              |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |        |                                 |       |                                   |       |                                      |       |                                        |       |                                       |       |                                       |       |                                           |       |                                           |       |                                |       |              |       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |        |                                 |       |                                   |       |                                      |       |                                        |       |                                       |       |                                       |       |                                           |       |                                           |       |                                |       |              |       |

# September 2021

| Sun                                                                                        | Mon                                                                                   | Tue                                  | Wed                      | Thu                                                     | Fri | Sat                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                            |                                                                                       |                                      | 1                        | 2                                                       | 3   | 4                                                |
|                                                                                            |                                                                                       |                                      |                          | Military Ministry Meeting<br>via ZOOM<br>6:00pm-7:30 pm |     | Communion<br>Element Pick-up<br>10:00-12:00 noon |
| 5                                                                                          | 6                                                                                     | 7                                    | 8                        | 9                                                       | 10  | 11                                               |
| 8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br>Holy Communion<br><br>AMEN<br>Deadline | Labor Day<br><br>5:00 p.m.<br>History Males Ministry<br><br>6:00 p.m.<br>CPR Ministry |                                      | 6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study |                                                         |     |                                                  |
| 12                                                                                         | 13                                                                                    | 14                                   | 15                       | 16                                                      | 17  | 18                                               |
| 8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br><br>Grandparents<br>Day                | 10:00 a.m.<br>Fifty-Plus Meeting<br>Via ZOOM                                          |                                      | 6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study |                                                         |     | 10:00 a.m.<br>Church School Book Club            |
| 19                                                                                         | 20                                                                                    | 21                                   | 22                       | 23                                                      | 24  | 25                                               |
| 8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship                                           | Lay Organization<br>Meeting 6:00 pm<br>Via ZOOM                                       | 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.<br>SOUP KITCHEN | 6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study |                                                         |     | 10:00 a.m.<br>WNE Meeting                        |
|                                                                                            |                                                                                       |                                      | First Day of Fall        |                                                         |     |                                                  |
| 26                                                                                         | 27                                                                                    | 28                                   | 29                       | 30                                                      |     |                                                  |
| 8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship                                           |                                                                                       | 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.<br>SOUP KITCHEN | 6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study |                                                         |     |                                                  |

## St. John AME Church Survey Results

### Sponsored by the Board of Stewards' Congregational Care Committee

St. John Family,

Thank you for your participation in the survey sponsored by the Board of Stewards' Congregational Care Committee. Only nineteen persons responded. However, the committee felt an obligation to report the results of those members who did reply. The results are indicated for each question in red. The survey and the analysis were generated by Survey Monkey.

1. Please identify your age group.

6.67% 18-40  
26.67% 41-60  
63.15% 61-80  
10.52% 81 and above

2. Please identify your gender

15.78% Male  
84.21% Female

3. How do you receive the St. John AMEN newsletter?

47.36% By email  
42.10% By U.S. Mail (hard copy)  
6.67% Both  
6.67% I do not receive the newsletter.

4. How have you been affected by COVID-19?

21.05% Emotionally  
0 Financially  
15.78% Spiritually  
40.00% All the above  
26.67% None of these

5. What platform are you using to view the Sunday worship service?

(Check all that apply)

53.33% Facebook Live  
33.33% The St. John Facebook page  
20.00% Vimeo  
40.00% St. John's YouTube page  
0 None

6. How often do you view the online Sunday worship service?

94.7% Weekly      0 2-3 times a month      0 not at all

*(Continued on page 23)*

**St. John AME Church Survey Results**  
**Sponsored by the Board of Stewards' Congregational Care Committee**

*(Continued from page 22)*

7. How would you rate the quality of the online Sunday service viewing experience?

15.78% Very poor  
0 Poor  
33.33% Acceptable  
60.00% Very good  
0.67% Exceptional

8. What is your preferred method of giving?

33.33% Givelify  
0 CashApp@STJOHNHSV  
10.52% PayPal  
10.52% U S Mail  
31.57% Drive-through Communion Pick-up  
6.67% Direct Deposit-Bank Automatic Draft  
20.00% The offertory envelop/in person giving

9. Church School is conducted every Sunday via ZOOM. What can be done to increase participation? Rate the top three with 1 being most important.

20.00% Offer it at a different time  
20.00% Make the discussions more interactive  
13.33% Discuss more relevant topics  
13.33% Provide a contemporary session  
47.36% Continue the traditional session where scripture is discussed and related to current events  
0.67% None of the above

10. During this pandemic, every effort has been made to keep the congregation informed of events and activities. Are you receiving communication from the church? Check all that apply.

78.9% Yes, I receive the Call Outs  
47.36% Yes, I receive emails from the church  
47.30% Yes, I see the announcements on Facebook  
0 I do not receive any communications from the church.  
73.68% I see the announcements at the beginning of the worship service

Thank You for completing the survey.

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

Return Service Requested

E-mail: [office@stjohnhuntsville.com](mailto:office@stjohnhuntsville.com)  
Website: [www.stjohnhuntsville.com](http://www.stjohnhuntsville.com)

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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

### ***Important Dates to Remember***

**12th Session of the Northwest Alabama Annual Conference (Virtual)**  
September 4— WMS & YPD Annual Conference  
**September 8—10, 2021**  
**DANIEL PAYNE COMMUNITY PLAZA**  
1500 Daniel Payne Drive, Birmingham, AL 35214



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 26 Issue 9

September 2021



Happy 5th Pastoral Appreciation, the Reverend Maurice Wright, II,  
Servant Pastor  
Historic St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

St. John AME Church celebrated the 5th pastoral appreciation of the Reverend Maurice Wright, II and his family on Sunday, August 22, 2021. Though the sanctuary was closed to the congregation, the Stewards and Trustees joined the pastor in the service. The Reverend Dr. Timothy Tyler, Pastor of Shorter AME Church, Denver, Colorado was the guest speaker for the 10:00am worship service.

Following the worship service, the congregation was invited to participate in a Drive-by celebration for the Pastor and the family.

## Pastoral Appreciation, 2021



Elder Derwood Wilson, Isaiah Wright, Joy Wright, the Reverend Maurice Wright, the Reverend Dr. Timothy Tyler and First Lady, Dr. Nita Mosby Tyler



The family received their traditional gifts from the Board of Stewards



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II and The Reverend Dr. Timothy Tyler



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II  
Deaconess Ernestine Barnes-Ivery  
and  
The Reverend Dr. Timothy Tyler

Pastor Wright with the Musicians



Pastor Wright with members of the Trustee Board

## Pastoral Appreciation and Drive-By, 2021



Pastor Wright with the  
Board of Stewards



## Pastoral Appreciation Drive-by, 2021



### Planning to retire? Here are ways to prioritize your retirement funding

A consequence of the current 18-month COVID era is the record number of persons that have chosen to retire a few years early instead of going back into the office during this great period of uncertainty. As many Americans assess their financial health and choose to retire a year or two early, they are immediately confronted with the question, "Which retirement funding should I use first?"

When considering retirement, early or not, retirees should consider the following questions:

- Do they have an employment pension?
- Are they Social Security eligible?
- Have they reached the threshold of 59 ½ years old, which allows them to tap into their 401K retirement account?



If any of the above apply to them, there are some things they should know to enable greater financial flexibility into their golden years and minimize the tax implications associated with retirement income.

A 2020 Northwestern Mutual study located at [Newsroom | Northwestern Mutual - Planning & Progress Study 2020](#) found that 71% of U.S. adults admit their financial planning needs improvement. However, only 29% of Americans work with a financial advisor. Since the value of working with a financial advisor varies from person-to-person, is valued more as projected income targets grow, and because financial advisors are legally prohibited from promising returns, research indicates the people who do reach out to a certified financial planner feel more comfortable about their finances, subsequent retirement funding streams needed to satisfy basic retirement needs, and their ability to stretch the retirement dollar further through tax savings and priority use of income.

**What should not be considered when planning for retirement?**

**Do not start with your investment income:** When a person chooses not to withdraw from their investments immediately, it gives their retirement accounts more time to compound interest. If they dive straight into the 401(k) or Individual Retirement Account (IRA), it could cost a person many years' worth of income in retirement savings. Whether they have mutual funds, a brokerage account, ETFs, stocks, or bonds, they are all taxable. Therefore, the retiree will have to pay capital gains taxes on withdrawals. Some investments also require them to pay taxes on distributions each year, like some mutual funds.

**Try not to claim Social Security (SS) benefits at 62:** If maximizing retirement savings is the priority, the prospective retiree may want to consider waiting longer to access SS benefits. Also, recall that SS benefits at age 62, 65 or 68 are *not* your maximum benefits. The maximum SS retirement benefit kicks in at age 70. If you claim before the age of 70, a retiree will not receive their full entitlement.

**Do not withdraw from 401(k) or IRA before Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) begin:** Though, a retiree can start to withdraw retirement income from your 401K or IRA, it may not be in their best interest. By law, a person is not required to withdraw until the age of 72. If a retiree has a path to age 72 without tapping into the 401K or IRA, they should choose that option.



**Consider other alternatives to the IRA income:** Since the retiree has paid taxes up front and ahead of Roth IRA contribu-

## Financial News

Bobby Adkins, II

(Continued from page 5)

tions, they can take money out of the Roth IRA and it will not count as taxable income. The Roth IRA also will continue to grow tax-free as they tap into their other accounts. Since a Roth IRA holds after-tax funds and the IRS does not need to tax it again, you also do not need to take RMDs. This account can keep growing for as long as you do not touch it.

**So, what is the best path?** Finding the best sequence for withdrawing money from a retirement account is not rocket science, but it does require the prospective retiree to carefully gauge the amount of income needed, the sources of income, age thresholds to reach and receive maximum benefit, and tax implications from the retirement accounts. Getting the most value out of retirement income is essential. If a financial planner is not available or is deemed too expensive, seek information from online resources, such as [NerdWallet 5 Steps to Retirement Planning: A 2021 Guide - NerdWallet](#). By doing a little research, a new retiree can stretch the value of the retirement dollar a little farther, and that may make all the difference in the world.



### The Lay Organization of St. John AME Church Announces Lay Witness Sunday

The St. John Lay Organization will lead the worship service on Sunday, October 10, 2021, which is Lay Witness Sunday in the Connectional AME Church. Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., St. John member and President of Alabama A&M University, will be the guest speaker. The theme for the service is "Laity Walking Humbly with God to Do Justice and to Love Kindness."

Please plan to join the Lay Organization for this virtual service on our normal streaming platforms. Brother Hodges Washington is the president of the St. John Lay Organization.

"Worshippers never leave church...  
We carry our sanctuary with us  
Wherever we go."  
—A. W. Tozer

ALABAMA AGRICULTURE AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

# Retirement Celebration

HONORING

## Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr.

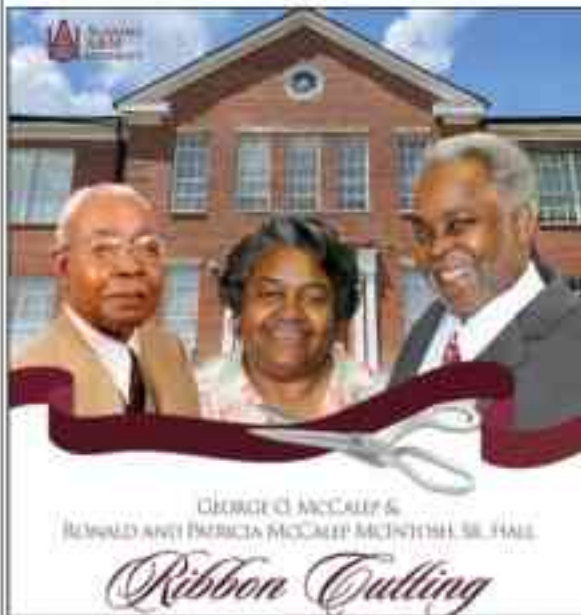
SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 11, 2021

TICKETS: \$100.00  
DETAILS COMING SOON!



SAVE THE DATE

## AME Proud!



### *Congratulations!*

Imagine this being said in the smooth, melodic voice of the "Maestro" Mr. Ronald McIntosh, "Thursday, August 31, 2021 was a glorious day on the "Beautiful campus of Alabama A&M University!" The tents were erected; seats spaced; podium prepared; speakers attentive and ready to celebrate the occasion. The invited guests were seated for the ribbon cutting of the renovated, and renamed vocational building, The George O. McCalep & Ronald and Patricia McIntosh, Sr. Hall.

After being closed for approximately 25 years, the University invested \$4,350,000 in renovating the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, ADA upgrades, bathrooms, classrooms, office space and installation of the elevator.

In June 2020, the Board of Trustees voted to rename the Vocational Building the George O. McCalep, Sr. and Ronald and Patricia McCalep McIntosh, Sr. Hall. Patricia is the daughter of George O. McCalep, Sr. The McIntoshes are

longtime contributors and financial supporters of the University.

St. John members were there in support of the McIntoshes. Mr. Tommy Friend provided a musical prelude to kick-off the event. Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. brought greetings and acknowledged the attendance of special guests. Pastor Wright offered the invocation followed by an acapella rendition of "My Living Shall Not Be in Vain" by Mr. Reggie Pearson. Dr. Lee Williams, Professor Emeritus of the Department of History, University of Alabama at Huntsville gave a historical perspective on the renaming of the building and the family's legacy. First Lady, Mrs. Abbiegail Hugine was also a program participant as was the Honorable Martha Lynn Sherrod.

As the program came to a close, both Mrs. Patricia McCalep McIntosh and Mr. Ronald McIntosh gave closing remarks, expressing their gratitude for the legacy of Mr. George O. McCalep. The attendees assembled for the ribbon cutting, after which everyone was invited to tour the facility.

Program for McCalep Ribbon Cutting at Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, AL. 2021.



The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



St. John AME members in attendance.

## Church School Lesson Overview – October 2021

Lesson reviews are prepared by Brother Willie Sandifer, Church School Superintendent, St. John AME Church.

**October 3, 2021**

**Lesson Title:** Make a Joyful Noise

**Lesson Scripture:** Psalm 100

**Print:** Psalm 100

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

**Key Verse:** "Know that the Lord is God. It is He that made us, and we are His; we are his people, and the sheep of His pasture" (Psalm 100:3).

This lesson looks at Psalm 100 where believers are commanded to make a joyful noise. The Psalms are made up of many expressions of our love, joy, peace, sadness, anger, frustration and all emotion among humankind. Yes, even doubts, unforgiveness, and loneliness are in the Psalms. The commentary shares that Psalm 100 is a hymn of praise and thanksgiving.

**October 10, 2021**

**Lesson Title:** Praise God for Justice and Righteousness

**Lesson Scripture:** Psalm 9; Ecclesiastes 3:16-22

**Print:** Psalm 9:1-12

**Devotional Songs:** #424[], #272[], and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "He judges the world with righteousness; He judges the people with equity" (Psalm 9:8).

This lesson looks at Psalm 9 and sees that David is praising God, after a victory. It was violence that brought David and his warrior skills to the attention of Israel. As a boy, he slew the giant Goliath. In this Psalm David made use of human terms and analogies to draw a picture of God and his actions.

**October 17, 2021**

**Lesson Title:** Give Thanks for Deliverance

**Lesson Scripture:** Psalm 107

**Print:** Psalm 107:1-9, 39-43

**Devotional Songs:** #450[], #77[], and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "They cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress" (Psalm 107:6).

This lesson focuses on Psalm 107 which is the beginning of the fifth book of Psalms which goes through Psalm 150. The Psalms in the fifth book focuses on blessings that result from righteous living. They also praise God for His deliverance, presence and protection. Psalm 107 revolves around thank-

fulness to God, as Israel had returned from the Babylonian Exile.

**October 24, 2021**

**Lesson Title:** The Joy of Worship

**Lesson Scripture:** Psalm 84

**Print:** Psalm 84

**Devotional Songs:** #525[], #258[], and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise" (Psalm 84:4).

This lesson examines Psalm 84. It is one of the holy writings of the Korahites. The Psalm starts with believers being showcased as pilgrims who are going to worship in the temple in Jerusalem. Those who lived outside Jerusalem were required by Mosaic Law to go to Jerusalem for Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacle. The travelers made praising God their top priority as they went.

### AME Proud!

#### Congratulations



Dr. Thalia Love-Brown



Sister Claudinette  
Purfoy-Fears

Congratulations to Dr. Thalia Love-Brown on being elected to the office of Historiographer and Sister Claudinette Purfoy-Fears on being re-elected to the office of Parliamentarian of the Ninth District Women's Missionary Society. The elections were held during the 12th Session of the Northwest Alabama Annual Conference.

During the months of September and October  
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**

I have come that they may have life,  
and that they may have it more  
abundantly.

John 10:10 (NKJV)



**Welcome Baby!**

Memphis Wayne Hankins  
Born June 30, 2021

To proud Parents  
Nathan & Christina Hankins

Cherished by Grandmother  
The Reverend Vickie Mayberry

and Aunt:  
The Reverend Debra Ballard

## Young People's Division



**"Growing, Glowing and  
Going for Christ"**

A Message from Mrs. Deidre Walton,  
YPD Director

Hello YPDers!

The YPD Conference focus for the month of October will be on  
Breast Cancer Awareness.

The St. John YPD will be soliciting canned goods for the local  
food bank as the October Community Service Project. We're  
asking the congregation to please donate protein enriched  
canned goods, such as tuna, canned chicken, canned salmon and  
canned beans. There will be a collection box at the church for  
donated items. Please bring the items to the church during nor-  
mal hours & place in the designated box.

- Check out the 9th district YPD Facebook page
- Contact Mrs. Walton at [deetergatesjones@gmail.com](mailto:deetergatesjones@gmail.com),  
[stypdhsv@gmail.com](mailto:stypdhsv@gmail.com), or (703-772-1121).

St. John AME Church  
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society  
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President



*Thank you  
St. John for the  
Love shown my  
family and me during  
our 5th Pastoral  
appreciation Day!*  
—Joy Wright





## Church School Book Club

October 2021

Discussion Date: October 16, 2021  
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Attention: Both books will be discussed on October 16, 2021.



*Summer on the Bluffs: A Novel*, Hostin, Sunny, 2021.



*The Vanishing Half*, Bennett, Brit, 2020.

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many

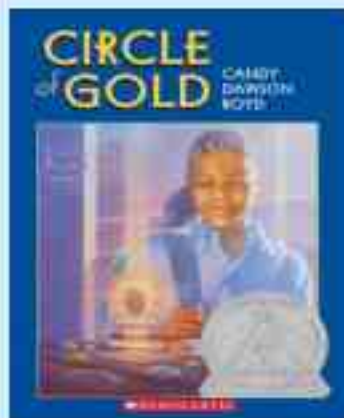
years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?

Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins. — Amazon

## Young Readers' Café

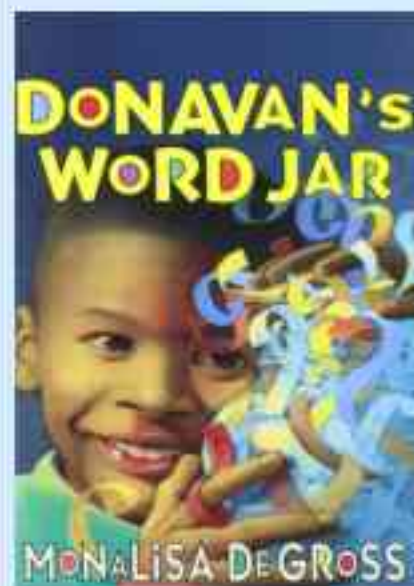
### St. John Member's Favorites

The following selections were submitted by Ms. Paula Phippen, District Curriculum Specialist for Huntsville City Schools.



Candy Dawson Boyd, Author

9-12 year olds



Monalisa DeGross, Author

8-9 year olds

# Military Ministry News

LTC. (Ret.) Felicia Carter

## September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

The Department of Defense (DoD) theme to the support the month is "Connect to Protect - Support is Within Reach."

September provides a dedicated space to have direct discussion and dialog to address the crisis of suicide among those who have served in the military. It is necessary to treat this epidemic all year. It is imperative that everyone start recognizing the trauma our military men and women face daily. As they support and defend the country against terrorism internationally and domestically, they often have had to perform very difficult tasks and/or witness horrific things. These actions can affect and even haunt them months and years later. We need honest conversation to ensure everyone understands why this difficult topic must be addressed.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) "Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues." This month should help raise awareness. It should aid in spreading hope and vital information to those having serious thoughts of suicide or families affected by suicide. The Military Ministry will continue to help share resources for navigating this mental health crisis.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Crisis Line: [Veterans Crisis Line](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net) at 800-273-8255

NAMI: [The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](https://www.namihelp.org) at 800-273-TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately.

I think of the song by Hezekiah Walker and The Love Fellowship Choir, "I Need You to Survive" and the scripture from Psalm 6:9. "The Lord has heard my cry for mercy". St. John AME Church family let's ensure we spread the word "Connect to Protect - Support is Within Reach"



# Military Ministry News

LTC. (Ret.) Felicia Carter

## The St. John AME Military Ministry

The St. John AME Military Ministry will meet on the first Thursday of each month via ZOOM.  
Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Point of contact: Sister Felicia Carter, 256-529-2667

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NlUkRDNkZxVjR4dUllbXdkTm9oZz09>

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 51a1rF

One tap mobile

+1 929 205 6099,,73469179993#,,,078010# US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592,,73469179993#,,,078010# US (Washington D C)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 078010

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NlUkRDNkZxVjR4dUllbXdkTm9oZz09>



## St. John AME's Partnership with Habitat for Humanity

Tami McGhee

St. John AME Church has partnered with North Alabama Habitat for Humanity since September 1995. St. John has provided financial support and hundreds of physical labor man hours to build affordable housing for families in the Huntsville-Madison County area.

Even in a pandemic building continued at a restricted level. This house was the 55th house constructed with this partnership. And God gets the glory!



## Reflection on a Life Well Lived

### Celebration of the Life and Legacy of the Reverend Derwood Doyle Wilson



The Reverend Derwood  
Doyle Wilson

The Reverend Derwood Doyle Wilson was born on November 24, 1934 in Cuney, Texas to the late Taylor A. Wilson and Sim Wille Wilson. He was the fourth of seven children and was affectionately called "Lil Brother". He was educated in the public school system of Jacksonville, Texas and was a proud graduate of Fred Douglass High School, class of 1952. As a child, he attended the Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church and accepted the Lord as his personal Savior.

After high school, he attended Texas Southern University for two years and then he joined the United States Air Force. He served honorably for more than 20 years. During his time in the service, he served in Vietnam, Bermuda, Germany and North Africa. He served his country with distinction and was praised with dozens of honors, certificates and commendations.

In 1957, Reverend Wilson married the love of his life, Erma Teen Washington. They were married for 34 years before her passing. They were both faithful members of Emmanuel COGIC and served under the pastorate of the Late Bishop R. E. Alzheimer, Bishop T. L. Westbrook and Supt. Sherman David, Jr. In 1986, he and Missionary Wilson moved their membership to Emmanuel COGIC under the leadership of Elder Larry and Missionary Jean Melton.

Under the leading of the Lord, Elder Wilson founded the Ebenezer Church of God in Christ, where he served until he was lead to unite with Roosevelt Heights under the leadership of Elder John Wayne Penton. In addition to his service in the local church and the Washington State Jurisdiction, he served as one of the housing coordinators of the Progress House and volunteered in other state and federal prison ministries.

Reverend Wilson believed in the value of hard work. He had several jobs throughout his lifetime. In addition to serving in the United States Air Force, he worked for Tam Engineering for more than 25 years. After retirement from Tam, he worked for *The Tacoma News Tribune*. He was skilled with his hands and had a unique talent for building special projects. In the summer of 2019, he and Brother Jesse Johnson dug up a portion of the yard because he needed more driveway space. When Brother Johnson went back to look at the progress being made, to his surprise, Reverend Wilson had dug up more space than was needed. In addition to working in carpentry he was skilled in working with steel. One of the most prized possessions is a tool cabinet that he made more than 60 years ago, that he still used regularly.



In 2018, Reverend Wilson moved from Tacoma Washington to Huntsville, Alabama to live with his grandson, Maurice, due to declining health and unfortunate circumstances. He gladly united with the St. John AME Church and became affectionately known as "Grandpa". He served in the soup kitchen ministry, was active in the Fifty-Plus Axillary, and worked wherever he was able. When asked why he did not unite with a COGIC church, he simply replied there is only one God, and St. John likes to have church. Reverend Wilson was loved and admired by the members of St. John and was faithful in his service to the church. He loved to dress up. Each week, the members would wait to see what he was going to wear to service and he always exceeded expectations.

Reverend Wilson was the kind of man who believed in doing things his way and on his terms. He loved to travel and would often talk about the many cruise expeditions he experienced. In 2019, "Grandpa" decided to trade in his CRV for a big truck, as he called it. He drove to Chicago to visit his grandchildren: Jessie and Dominique; and then to Texas

(Continued on page 14)

## Reflection on a Life Well Lived

(Continued from page 13)

to visit his sister Debra, and brother Robert. He then ended up driving to Georgia to visit his brother, Marvin also. In July, he drove to Orlando on a solo expedition to attend the General Conference. Not only did he enjoy driving, he enjoyed driving fast. In fact, just three weeks ago, he was cited for going 79 in a 45-speed zone.



Reverend Derwood Wilson was a gentle, giving man who would put the needs of others before his own. He will surely be missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, stepmother-Josephine Wilson, three siblings, wife-Missionary Erma Teen Wilson, and son, Jesse Wilson. He leaves to cherish his memory, son, Elder Maurice Wright, Sr., three stepchildren, six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, two brothers-Marvin and Robert, one sister-Debra Wilson McClelland, and a host of nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

The St. John family grieves with the family in the loss of this kind, gentle, and compassionate man. He will truly be missed.

### The Measure of a Man

Not—How did he die? But—How did he live?  
 Not—What did he gain? But—What did he give?  
 These are the things that measure the worth  
 Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.  
 Not—What was his station? But—had he a heart?  
 And—How did he play his God-given part?  
 Was he ever ready with a word of good cheer?  
 To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?  
 Not—What was his church? Not—What was his creed?  
 But—Had he befriended those really in need?  
 Not—What did the sketch in the newspaper say?  
 But—How many were sorry when he passed away?  
 These are the things that measure the worth  
 Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.

—Anonymous



Ms. Maria Eileen Jones Walton

Ms. Maria Walton gracefully transitioned this life on August 24, 2021 surrounded by her loving family. She was the daughter of the late Mr. Preston and Mildred Jones of Huntsville. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Nellie Maxie, brothers, Ernest, Henry and David Jones and her son Terrence Walton, M.D.

Maria accepted Christ at an early age and joined St. John AME Church under the pastorate of the Reverend S. S. Hereford. She attended faithfully, participating in many events and raising her children at St. John. Never wavering in her faith, she devoted her life to Christ.

She eventually made Grady-Madison AME her home church where she volunteered her time and talents by serving on numerous committees and boards. Not only was she a very active member of Grady-Madison AME, but it was there she introduced her grandchildren to the Lord.

Maria graduated from William Hooper Council High School in 1964. She completed nursing school at J.F. Drake State Technical College in 1965. She later returned to Drake to earn a degree in Cosmetology. She was a true entrepreneur, having opened many salons in the Huntsville-Madison County area. Hair became her calling. All her clients can testify that she could "slay" some hair!

Maria never met a stranger. As she was approaching you she was always smiling, with her arms out to embrace you. When in her presence, she always made each person feel as if they were the most important person in the room. Her love was genuine; her smile contagious; her kindness remarkable, and her compassion for everyone inspiring.

She leaves to cherish her memory, many, many family members, friends, colleagues and church family members.

Ms. Maria Eileen Jones Walton will be missed by many.

May the peace of the Lord that surpasses all understanding  
 Be a comfort to the family.



## Announcements



### Worship Service Live Streaming

The 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms:

- Church website: [www.stjohnhuntsville.com](http://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

Audio Listening only of the 10:00 am worship service  
(3 steps)

1. First, Dial.....**321-626-6799**
2. Next, dial .....**889-5387-3674**
3. Then, dial .....**090 252**

### St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

Bible Study each Wednesday evening via ZOOM.  
ZOOM Link is sent out to the congregation on email.

**Discussion topic: Study of Job**

Contact the church office for a copy of the lesson outline.

Email: [office@stjohnhuntsville.com](mailto:office@stjohnhuntsville.com)

Phone: 256-534-3265



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 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tithes           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offering         | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School    | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soup Kitchen     | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Payne     | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Project | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Food Box | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other            | _____  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | _____  |

# October 2021

| Sun                                                                                             | Mon                                                                                                                         | Tue                                        | Wed                            | Thu                                                          | Fri | Sat                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                             |                                            |                                |                                                              | 1   | 2<br>Communion<br>Element Pick-up<br>10:00-12:00 noon |
| 3<br>8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br>Holy Communion<br><br>AMEN<br>Deadline | 4<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Rty-Plus Meeting<br>Via ZOOM<br><br>5:00 p.m.<br>History Males Ministry<br><br>6:00 p.m.<br>CPR Ministry | 5                                          | 6<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study  | 7<br>Military Ministry Meeting<br>Via ZOOM<br>6:00pm-7:30 pm | 8   | 9                                                     |
| 10<br>8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br><br>Lay Witness<br>Sunday             | 11                                                                                                                          | 12                                         | 13<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study | 14                                                           | 15  | 16<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Church School Book Club           |
| 17<br>8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br><br>Pink Out<br>Sunday                | 18<br>Lay Organization<br>Meeting 7:00 pm<br>Via ZOOM                                                                       | 19<br>11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.<br>SOUP KITCHEN | 20<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study | 21                                                           | 22  | 23<br>10:00 a.m.<br>WNE Meeting                       |
| 24<br>8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship                                          | 25                                                                                                                          | 26<br>11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.<br>SOUP KITCHEN | 27<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study | 28                                                           | 29  | 30                                                    |
| 31                                                                                              |                                                                                                                             |                                            |                                |                                                              |     |                                                       |

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

# BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

EARLY DETECTION CAN **SAVE** YOUR LIFE.

1 **IN** 8



US WOMEN WILL DEVELOP INVASIVE BREAST CANCER  
OVER THE COURSE OF HER LIFETIME.

Breast cancer is  
diagnosed every  
**29 seconds**

around the world,

and in the U.S.

it's every  
**2 minutes.**



About  
**292,130 women**  
and about  
**2,350 men**

will be diagnosed with breast cancer  
in the U.S. this year.

About **1 in 8 women** in the U.S.



will get breast cancer in her lifetime.

It is estimated that

**86.4%**

of people will survive  
**5** or more years after being  
diagnosed with breast cancer.

There is estimated to be more than

**2.8 million**

breast cancer survivors in the U.S.



## Breast cancer

is the leading cause of cancer death in women, after lung cancer.

The chance of a woman dying from early stage breast cancer is estimated to be  
**1 in 36** (about 3%).

INCIDENCE OF BREAST CANCER PER **100,000** CASES BY RACE

**127.9**

White (Non-Hispanic)

**124.4**

African American

**96.3**

Asian/Pacific Islander

**92.1**

Hispanic

**82.0**

American Indian/Alaska Native



**Pink Out Sunday  
Virtual Celebration  
St. John AME Church  
October 17, 2021**

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

Return Service Requested

E-mail: [office@stjohnhuntsville.com](mailto:office@stjohnhuntsville.com)  
Website: [www.stjohnhuntsville.com](http://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

### ***Important Dates to Remember***

- ♦ September 15th-October 15th National Hispanic Heritage Month. This year's theme: Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope to celebrate the community's resilience, strength and hope.
- ♦ November 2021, Caregivers' Prayer and Respite Ministry will sponsor its annual Caregivers' Workshop. Registration details will be included in the October AMEN.



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 26 Issue 10

October 2021

ENCOURAGING, EMPOWERING & ENABLING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

**Welcome Back!**  
**The Reverend Maurice Wright, II** Servant Pastor  
**St. John AME Church**



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

## The Annual Conference in Review

According to The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (2016 edition), the Annual Conference shall be composed of all traveling elders and deacons, all local elders and deacons, and all licentiates; the presidents of the Conference Lay Organizations and Missionary Society, and the Conference directors of Christian Education, Music and YPD, together with one (1) elected lay member and at least one (1) elected lay-person between the ages of eighteen to thirty-five (18-35), when possible, from each charge within its bounds.<sup>1,2</sup>

An annual conference year shall begin when the appointments are read in the conference and shall continue until they are read at the next session.<sup>3</sup>

And so begins the new conference year for St. John AME Church, Huntsville.

The 12th Session of the Northwest Annual Conference closed with appointments on Friday, September 10, 2021. The Reverend Maurice Wright, II was appointed for one more year to St. John AME Church, Huntsville,

Alabama, by the Presiding Prelate, Bishop Harry L. Seawright. The conference year for St. John will therefore, run from September 10, 2021 until September of 2022. Although the conference was held virtually, St. John was well represented by the elected delegates, Brother Sam Walton and Sister Abbiegail Hugine, who served as the alternate. Their thorough reports are included.

The officers and members of St. John AME Church welcomed the Reverend Maurice Wright, II and his family back on Sunday, September 12, 2021 to begin his 6th pastoral assignment at St. John.

<sup>1,2</sup> Fiftieth General Conference, 2016, *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, (Bicentennial edition). Pages. 266-267.

## Report from the 12th Session of the Northwest Annual Conference

The delegates representing St. John AME Church at the 12th Session of the Northwest Annual Conference were Brother Sam Walton and Sister Abbiegail Hugine. Sister Hugine served as the alternate delegate. They were privy to an array of conversations, discussions and decisions regarding the Ninth Episcopal District. The reports from the delegates only give a snapshot of all that transpired during the three day session.

Thanks are expressed to both Brother Walton and Sister Hugine for serving the congregation and providing a report from the annual conference.

### Wednesday, September 8, 2021, Opening Day of the 12th Session of the Northwest Annual Conference



First of all this writer, would like to thank Pastor Wright and the Board of Stewards for entrusting the delegates with the responsibility of reporting the actions taken at the annual conference. Also, Steward Abbiegail Hugine's support as the alternate delegate was greatly appreciated.

The theme of the 12th Annual Northwest Conference was: "Creativity and Imagination in the New Normal." The official opening of the 12th Session of the Annual Conference occurred at 8 a.m. with scripture and prayer, followed by roll call. Roll Call was answered by Pastor Maurice Wright II and Steward Sammie Walton. Other stewards in attendance were Steward Abbiegail Hugine and Steward, Dr. Pamela Whitehead. The South Birmingham Huntsville Bessemer District Presiding Elder Bruce W. Hunter gave a great report on the status of the district. In these trying times with the pandemic every church in the district has had ups and down but thanks be to God, St. John has been a beacon of light in Huntsville as well as to other churches in the district. The Reverend Claudwell Campbell retired during this annual conference. However, he will continue to serve as the Supply Minister at Gravitt Chapel AME Church, New Market, Alabama. The Reverend (Ret.) Robert B. Hereford, spoke eloquently and passionately on behalf of Reverend Campbell.

During the opening service, as well as the entire conference, music was provided by the Music and Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM) choir under the direction of the MCAM President, the Reverend Maurice Wright, II. The message was given by the Reverend Bryan Blackwell, St. Paul AME, Smithfield, AL. His message "God Is Not Through with Me Yet" was taken from 1 Kings 19:13b-14.

The annual reports from each church went very well. Considering this was the first time reports were recorded and played on screen. This was a big time saver. St. John A.M. E's report by Pastor Wright and Steward Pamela Whitehead was excellent. The Steward Board of St. John A.M.E. was second to none. The great reports were due to the great members of St. John A.M.E. As this was my first conference as the delegate and this was a digital conference.

The evening service was presented by the Sons of Allen. Brother Jeremy Joseph presided. The speaker was Archbishop Elect Michael C. Turner, of Miracle Center Capital Heights, Maryland. Sermon topic "Beyond Defeat" from Romans 8:37.

### Thursday, September 9, 2021, Second Day of the 12th Session of the Northwest Annual Conference



Devotion and Bible Study from 8:00 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. opened the service. The Conference Institute on Discipleship was presented by the Reverend Dr. Jermaine Richardson. He spoke about discipleship in the new normal.

During the Conference Institute the Reverend Richardson spoke about churches during these digital times. He spoke about so many churches that shut down due to a lack of digital technology. St. John A.M.E. has not had to shut down because we have adapted to changing situations and times which is a testimony to the leadership of Pastor Wright.

The 12noon – 1:30p.m. Hour of Power featured a presentation by NCRC (National Community Reinvestment Coalition). Their

## Report from the 12th Session of the Northwest Annual Conference

*(Continued from page 2)*

goal was to build a just banking system that would benefit everyone. This is achieved by having a voice within the system. The Hour of Power sermon was preached by the Reverend Agnes Lover. Her subject was "God is Doing a New Thing." She used Isaiah 43:18-19 as her scripture reference.

The Board of Examiners Report was made from 3:15p.m. – 5:45p.m. It was reported that Licentiate Jason Gilmore would remain at the first year status. Licentiate Justin York would remain at the fourth year status. Steward Hugine and this writer discussed what could be done by the steward board and church to support and encourage the St. John's up-and-coming licentiates.

The Lay Night Worship Service was held at 7:00 PM. Sister Diane Battle presided. The sermon was delivered by the Reverend Kimberly Martin, Bethel AME Church Homewood, AL. Sermon title: "God Can" (God Can Do Anything even save the unsavable.)

### Friday, September 10, 2021, Third Day of the 12th Session of the Northwest Annual Conference



Devotion and Bible Study from 8:00a.m. – 8:25a.m. opened the final day of the conference.

The Memorial and Retirement Service was a very moving service. Bishop Harry L. Seawright called the names of all the Ministers that had passed since the last Annual Conference. Bishop Seawright called each name three times.

After which he would say the minister did not answer the roll call. It reminded this writer of the services for fallen members attended in the past. They are all moving and hold a special place in our hearts.

The closing commissioning service started at 1:15 p.m., with Retired Bishop Carolyn Tyler-Guidry delivering a heartfelt and timely sermon on the topic: "God will do a New Thing" from Isaiah 43:18-21 as pastors received their new assignments. The St. John attendees were elated to hear that our Pastor Maurice Wright II was returned to St. John AME. Congratulations to the Reverend Maurice Wright, II as he leads our congregation for another year! The Ordination Service will take place at the Planning Meeting.

Thank you, St. John congregation, for the opportunity to serve as your delegate for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Conference. It was an experience this delegate will always remember.

*Thank You*

Pastor Wright, Officers and Members of St. John AME Church,

The family of the late, Miss Nina Marie Johnson would like to thank you for the many expressions of kindness shown during the loss of our beloved, angel. Your calls, cards, emails, and text messages were so greatly appreciated.

Your prayers and words of encouragement were especially comforting to the family. You prayed for us when we could not find the words to pray on our own. Thank you for covering us. The Lord is good, His mercies endure forever.

Be abundantly blessed is our prayer,  
The Johnson, Hereford, Davis, and Powers families

## Church Ministry News

The new 2021-2022 Conference Year has begun for the St. John AMEN Newsletter. As we celebrate the 27th year of the newsletter, we're excited to continue reporting on ministries, in addition to church, district, connectional information and activities. There is a ministry for every one, every age. Now is the time to join in, get involved, reignite and re-establish outreach through ministry. Come on! Let's get started!

—B. Johnson, editor

### The 50-Plus Auxiliary of St. John AME Church

The Fifty-Plus Auxiliary was formed to provide an opportunity for senior members of the congregation to socialize and fellowship with other members 50-Plus or older. The Fifty-Plus Auxiliary provided an opportunity for senior members to continue learning and becoming aware of and staying informed of social, economic, and issues regarding healthy aging. Monthly celebrations are held to recognized events, birthdays and retirements. Every meeting always includes special presentations by community speakers, such as Representative, Anthony Daniels, speaking on the latest legislative actions, Mr. Eddie Sherrod, speaking on voter registration initiatives, and speakers from the Alabama Cooperative Extension speaking on healthy eating and healthy living for seniors. The topics are always of interest and the speakers are experts in their fields.



50-Plus Auxiliary Fieldtrip to the opening of the State Legislature Session by invitation of Representative Anthony Daniels.



50-Plus Auxiliary Fieldtrip to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Pre-pandemic, the 50-Plus Auxiliary was taking fieldtrips to interesting sites, eating lunch either at the church or going out to eat and engaging in table-top games as a part of every gathering. There was always something interesting to do. For the last few months, the 50-Plus Auxiliary has met virtually via ZOOM.

During the month of October, The 50-Plus Auxiliary had as its guest speaker, Mr. Kenneth Anderson, the Multicultural Affairs Officer for the city of Huntsville, a position focusing on the quality of life issues for all residents.

Sister Agnes Gilmore serves as the president of The 50-Plus Auxiliary and extends an invitation to all members and friends of St. John 50+ or older, to join in the conversation and fun. The 50-Plus Auxiliary meets the first Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM. The auxiliary members are looking forward to returning to the church for the monthly gatherings. Until then, the membership will continue to gather virtually.

Interested in joining the 50-Plus Auxiliary, contact Sister Gilmore at [algilmore@gmail.com](mailto:algilmore@gmail.com)



Mr. Kenneth Anderson, guest speaker for the October meeting.



50-Plus Volunteering at Rolling Hills Ele. for Read Across America Day.

## Church Ministry News

### Celebrating the life and Legacy of Colin Luther Powell

As we prepare to celebrate Veterans Day next month and recognize the service of our military men and women and the sacrifice of their families, the nation will take a moment to honor the life of Colin Luther Powell. He was the first African American to serve as the 65<sup>th</sup> United States Secretary of State from 2001-2005. Prior to his retirement from the military, he served as the 12<sup>th</sup> Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1989-1993, the highest military rank in the Department of Defense. He retired as a 4 Star general. Although fully vaccinated he died on October 18, 2021, from COVID-19 complications. He was being treated for blood cancer.



### The St. John AME Military Ministry

The St. John AME Military Ministry will meet on the first Thursday of each month via ZOOM.

Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Point of contact: Sister Felicia Carter, 256-529-2667

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=czNIUTNONkZxVjlk4WllrbXdKTm9oZz09>

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 51a1rF

One tap mobile

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 216 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 078010

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993>



## AME Proud!

### Long-time Provost to Take Leadership Helm



**Dr. Daniel K. Wims, newly elected  
12th President of  
Alabama Agricultural &  
Mechanical University**

The Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees voted 7-4 Saturday, October 2, 2021, in favor of Dr. Daniel K. Wims as the 12<sup>th</sup> president of Alabama A&M University. The trustees reconvened at 8:50 a.m. October 2 to conduct in-person interviews of Presidential Search Finalists and to select the new president of the University. President Andrew Hugine, Jr., will retire from the post on December 31, 2021. Dr. Wims is an ordained itinerant elder in the Northwest Alabama Conference in the 9th Episcopal District and serves on the staff of St. John AME Church in Huntsville, Alabama where the Reverend Maurice Wright is the pastor.

Dr. Wims has over 20 years of progressive administrative experience in various governmental and higher education organizations. Wims formerly served as the executive vice-president and vice-president for academic affairs, and professor of agricultural sciences at The Fort Valley State University.

Other positions Wims held include assistant vice president for student affairs and associate professor at South Carolina State University; director of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and associate professor of agricultural sciences at Florida A&M University; director of institutional research and assessment and assistant professor of agricultural sciences at Alcorn State University; director of the Small Farm Research and Resource Development Center and assistant professor of agricultural sciences at Southern University.

Wims expressed his gratitude for being part of the interview process. He said his stints on national councils and major enterprises, extensive work with college presidents, service on accreditation teams and experience coming through the academic ranks has helped to prepare him for the University presidency.

Wims said that AAMU made decisions long ago to invest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs, even at the doctoral level. During his period as provost, Wims said AAMU has sought to continue and expand its STEM focus. However, Wims' presidency will stress artificial intelligence in cybersecurity, push data analytics, improve coding capabilities among a wider range of students, and recruitment of faculty in bio and alternative energy.



**From left to right: The newly elected 12th President of Alabama A&M University, Dr. Daniel Wims, the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Servant Pastor of St. John AME Church, and Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. President of Alabama A&M University.**

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

Other key areas of concentration, he said, will include campus-wide commitment to student retention; a renewed focus on community college transfers; investment in placement and institutional advancement; growing the University despite a brief period when there is a smaller pool of high school graduates; and increasing state and federal support via relationships.

Dr. Wims received the B.S. degree in agronomy in June 1987 from The Fort Valley State College, and the M.S. degree in agricultural extension and education with an agronomy concentration from The Ohio State University in 1989. He earned the Ph.D. degree from the University of Maryland-College Park in agricultural extension and education with a cognate in higher education administration.

Saintjones, J. (2021, October 2). Long-time provost to take leadership helm. October 2, 2021, [www.aamu.edu](http://www.aamu.edu).



### Lifting as they climbed: Celebrating Huntsville's First Black Women Voters

Following the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920, women from across Alabama prepared to register for the vote. All women were required to meet the provision of Alabama's 1901 Constitution, deliberately designed to prevent Black Alabamians from voting.

In Madison county over 1,300 women registered for the vote. Only six were Black women.

Huntsville's first Black women were educators, business owners, philanthropists, and community volunteers. They were also the mothers of the national Civil Rights movement. The six women were, Mary Wood Binford (Jordan), Ellen Scruggs Brandon, India Leslie Herndon, Lou Bertha Johnson (a member of St. John AME Church), Dora Fackler, and Celia Horton Love (McCrary).

A historic marker honoring these six women was dedicated on Sunday, October 24th in the William Hooper Council Memorial Park. Sponsors of the marker were, The Historic Huntsville Foundation, The William Hooper Council Alumni

Historic marker honoring the six African American women voters in the state of Alabama

Association, The Alabama Humanities Alliance and the City of Huntsville. Celebrating the event were the honorable Kay Ivey, governor of the state of Alabama, the honorable Tommy Battle, mayor of Huntsville, Mrs. Yvonne Lowery-Kennedy, and Dr. Hemdon Spillman.

## Church School Lesson Overview – November 2021

The reviews were written by Brother Kenneth Parham.

### November 7, 2021

**Lesson Title:** All People Praise God

**Lesson Scripture:** Revelation 7:9-17

**Print:** Revelation 7:9-17

**Devotional Songs**

**Key Verse:** "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb." Revelation 7:14 (NRSV)

In this lesson, Apostle John is sharing a vision that he has had. In the dream he sees a multitude gathered around a throne giving praises to the lamb sitting on the throne. And he asks who are these who are dressed in white robes? The elder in the vision replies that these are the ones from all nations who have come through the great ordeal. And as written in this text and repeated in Rev 21:4-6, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

In reviewing the lesson, concerns arose as to the definition of the great ordeal and the identification of the multitudes that made it through the great ordeal. Only God can answer these concerns but as believers, by faith, believers are hoping that no matter how small or great their tribulations are, only by faith would they overcome. And that once they had won the victory, God would allow them to wash out earthly pains, sorrows and deaths stains in order for their robes to be as white as ever and allow them to experience pure love forever as they give Him praise.

### November 14, 2021

**Lesson Title:** Praise for God's Eternal Reign

**Lesson Scripture:** Revelation 11

**Print:** Revelation 11:15-19

**Devotional Songs**

**Key Verse:** "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign forever and ever." Revelation 11:15 (NRSV)

In Apostle John's continued vision, each of six angels were tasked to sound their trumpets. And each trumpet caused some form of calamity upon the earth (Revelation 8:6 – 9:20). But in this lesson text, the seventh angel sounds his trumpet declaring that God's wrath against sinful man was complete and God has been victorious and has established His kingdom over all of the kingdoms of the earth. Those in His heavenly court, the twenty-four elders fall upon their

faces and sing praises of His victory acknowledging the time has come to judge sinful man and to reward His servants (prophets, the saints and those great or small who fear His name).

### November 21, 2021

**Lesson Title:** Rejoicing in Heaven

**Lesson Scripture:** Revelation 19

**Lesson Print:** Revelation 19:1-8

**Devotional Songs**

**Key Verse:** "Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready." Revelation 19:7 (NRSV)

The vision does continue. In this lesson, Apostle John records the reactions of God's great victory over the greatest civilization on earth, "the city of Babylon (the whore)." Revelation 17-18 describes the power of "Babylon," its relationships with other kings, its great demise in one hour and the reactions of those afar who either wailed or celebrated "Babylon's" destruction.

Apostle John, in Revelation 19 recounts the celebration held in God's honor. Great multitudes shout out praises highlighting the power of God, and the twenty-four elders and the four beasts fall onto their faces giving praises to God for avenging the blood of His servants. There comes a voice from one throne, acknowledging the greatness of God and indicating all servants, great or small, should offer praise to God. The multitudes respond by acknowledging the sovereignty of God and indicates that it is time for the marriage of the Lamb, for the bride is ready and is adorned in fine linen made up of the righteous deeds of the saints.

### November 28, 2021

**Lesson Title:** Good News for All

**Lesson Scripture:** Acts 10:34-47

**Lesson Print:** Acts 10:34-47

**Devotional Songs**

**Key Verse:** Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him." Acts 10:34-35 (NRSV)

In this lesson Apostle Peter has been sent via a spiritually-led vision to Caesarea to speak with a God-fearing centurion named Cornelius. Apostle Peter's vision centered around Jewish-Gentile relationship and the key issue of whether

*(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8)

Gentiles were entitled to salvation.

Apostle Peter speaks that God does not show any partiality. He indicates: "that God sent a message of peace which was spread by Jesus throughout Judea; that God allowed Jesus to heal "all those" oppressed by sin and God allowed "all" to witness even the death of Jesus on the cross; that by His death and resurrection, Jesus did command the apostles to preach and testify that He is the one ordained by God to judge the living and dead; and, that anyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." It is noted in closing that as Apostle Peter was speaking the gift of the Holy Spirit fell on the crowd (Jews and Gentiles) and his response is, "how can one withhold water for baptizing these who have received the Holy Spirit?"

**"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..."**

The Soup Kitchen is now accepting donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes. The cost per box is \$50.00. Please consider sharing a gift of food this holiday season. Donations are received through the offering envelope, mail, PayPal, CashApp, Givify or in person. Thank you.



**St. John AME Church  
is happy to welcome our  
new, virtual members**

Mrs. Deborah T. Bonner, of Jacksonville, Florida.  
Mrs. Bonner is the sister of Mrs. Sarah McGraw.

Ms. Dominique Wilson and Mr. Jessie Wilson, of  
Chicago, Illinois  
Cousins of Pastor Wright.

Mr. Milton W. Stillwell, of Aurora, CO.

## Young People's Division



### "Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

A Message from the YPD  
Director, Mrs. Deidre Walton

- Check out the 9th district YPD Facebook page
- Contact Mrs. Walton at [deetergatesjones@gmail.com](mailto:deetergatesjones@gmail.com), [stypdhsv@gmail.com](mailto:stypdhsv@gmail.com), or (703-772-1121).

St. John AME Church  
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society  
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President  
Young People's Division  
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director

During the months of October, 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 cellphone**  
**Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:**  
**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWliR3NXZz09)**  
**[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWliR3NXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWliR3NXZz09)**

**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**



## Church School Book Club

**October 16, 2021**

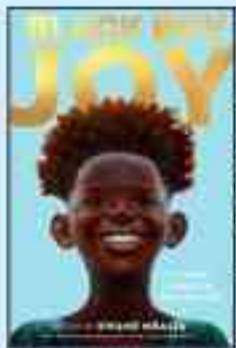
**Discussion Date: October 16, 2021  
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

Attention: Both books will be discussed on October 16, 2021

- Summer on the Bluffs: A Novel by Hostin, Sunny
- The Vanishing Half, Bennett, Brit

**November 20, 2021**

**Discussion Date: November 20, 2021  
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**



Kwame Mbalia (Editor)

**Black boy joy is...**

Picking out a fresh first-day-of-school outfit. Saving the universe in an epic intergalactic race. Finding your voice—and your rhymes—during tough times.

Flying on your skateboard like nobody's watching

And more! From seventeen acclaimed Black male and non-binary authors comes a vibrant collection of stories, comics, and poems about the power of joy and the wonders of Black boyhood.

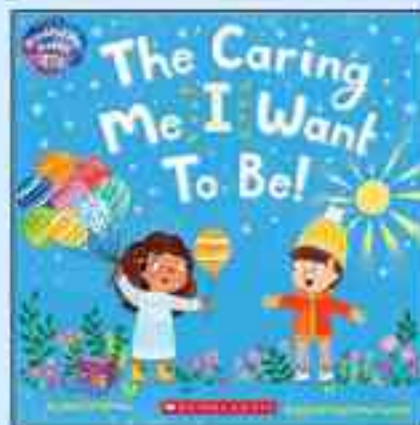
**Contributors include:** B. B. Alston, Dean Atta, P. Djèli Clark, Jay Coles, Jerry Craft, Lamar Giles, Don P. Hooper, George M. Johnson, Varian Johnson, Kwame Mbalia, Suyi Davies Okungbowa, Tochi Onyebuchi, Julian Randall, Jason Reynolds, Justin Reynolds, DaVaun Sanders, and Julian Winters.  
—Amazon

## Young Readers' Café

Claire Philadelphia

Mary DiPalermo, author

Emma Randall, Illustrator, ages 2-7



### Editor's Pick

Dr. Cheri N. Langley, author

Christa Harris & Randolph Gray, Illustrators



Dear Black Boy is primarily a book for parents, caregivers, and trusted adults to begin a conversation surrounding race in America with their children. Although this book was not specifically written for children, it is our hope that the content in this book will create conversation between parents and caregivers and their children, as well as community leaders and the communities they serve, in an effort to promote healing that has been caused by generations of racial trauma.

Ages 10-15



## *Celebrating an Era of Transformative Leadership*

**Retirement Roast  
Saturday, December 11, 2021  
6:00pm in the evening  
T. M. Elmore Building**

**Tickets: \$100.00 each  
All CDC Protocols will be strictly enforced.**

## Reflections on a Life Well Lived



Miss Nina Marie Johnson  
December 17, 1993-  
October 5, 2021

Miss Nina Marie Johnson transitioned this life on October 5, 2021. She was the daughter of Mr. Ronald Johnson and Mrs. Erica Davis-Johnson.

Nina confessed hope in Christ in 2009 and joined St. John AME Church under the pastorship of the Reverend Dr. Homer Littlefield McCall.

She actively participated in the Liturgical Dance Ministry, the Young Peoples Department (YPD), iThrive-Arise Ministry, and served as a volunteer in the Soup Kitchen.

She was educated in the Huntsville City School System, graduating from Lee High School in 2012. She went on to earn an Associates Degree in Culinary Arts and Hospitality Service from J. F. Drake State Technical College in 2015. She enjoyed being of service to others. She trained to become a certified nursing assistant (CNA). With this certification she gained employment with Huntsville Hospital.

Pastor Wright preached a beautiful eulogy entitled, "Living a Hyphenated Life." He stated that hyphens are connectors; they connect one thing to something else. And that hyphens usually mean that there is more to come. More for Nina would be living life eternally.

Pastor Wright also used the analogy of the man who worked everyday, but got to go home early. When the other workers inquired about the employee leaving early everyday, the boss explained that this worker had finished his work and he could go home early. This analogy helped to explain Nina's living this earth at the age of 27. Her earthly work was done, and she could go home early. AMEN

She leaves cherished memories of her presence on this earth with her parents, step-mother, grandmother, siblings, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, many friends, church family, and co-workers. She was loved immensely and will be greatly missed. Her last words were, "Tell them I love them."



## Announcements



### Worship Service Live Streaming

The 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms:

- Church website: [www.stjohnhuntsville.com](http://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

### Audio Listening only of the 10:00 am worship service

(3 steps)

1. First, Dial.....**321-626-6799**
2. Next, dial .....**889-5387-3674**
3. Then, dial .....**090 252**

### St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

Bible Study each Wednesday evening via ZOOM.  
ZOOM Link is sent out to the congregation on email.

**Discussion topic: Study of Job**

Contact the church office for a copy of the lesson outline.

Email: [office@stjohnhuntsville.com](mailto:office@stjohnhuntsville.com)

Phone: 256-534-3265



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using  
Givelify, PayPal, CashApp@SSTJOHNHSV 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 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tithes           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offering         | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School    | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soup Kitchen     | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Payne     | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Project | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Food Box | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other            | _____  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | _____  |

# November 2021

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                 | Mon                                                                                                                      | Tue                                                                    | Wed                      | Thu                                                                                  | Fri | Sat                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                     | 1                                                                                                                        | 2                                                                      | 3                        | 4                                                                                    | 5   | 6                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                          |                                                                        | 6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study | Military Ministry Meeting<br>via ZOOM<br>6:00pm-7:30 pm                              |     | Communion<br>Element Pick-up<br>10:00-12:00 noon |
| 7                                                                                                                                                                   | 8                                                                                                                        | 9                                                                      | 10                       | 11                                                                                   | 12  | 13                                               |
| 8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br>Holy Communion<br><br>AMEN<br>Deadline                                                                          | Fifty-Plus Meeting<br>10:00 am ZOOM<br><br>3:00 p.m.<br>History Makers Ministry<br><br>6:00 p.m.<br>CPR Ministry<br>ZOOM |                                                                        | 6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study |    |     |                                                  |
| 14                                                                                                                                                                  | 15                                                                                                                       | 16                                                                     | 17                       | 18                                                                                   | 19  | 20                                               |
| 8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                          | 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.<br>SOUP KITCHEN                                   | 6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study |                                                                                      |     | 10:00 a.m.<br>Church School Book Club            |
| 21                                                                                                                                                                  | 22                                                                                                                       | 23                                                                     | 24                       | 25                                                                                   | 26  | 27                                               |
| 8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                    | Lay Organization<br>Meeting 6:00 pm<br>Via ZOOM                                                                          | Soup Kitchen meals<br>will be served and<br>delivered next<br>Tuesday. | 6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study |  |     |                                                  |
| 28                                                                                                                                                                  | 29                                                                                                                       | 30                                                                     |                          |                                                                                      |     |                                                  |
| 8:45 a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br><br>First Sunday in<br>Advent |                                                                                                                          | 11:30 a.m.-1:00<br>p.m.<br>SOUP KITCHEN                                |                          |                                                                                      |     |                                                  |

St. John A.M.E. Church Huntsville  
Caregivers' Prayer and Respite Ministry

# HEALTHY AGING... THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW AND DO AS WE AGE

*Guest Speaker:*

**Chanda Crutcher,**

Founder and CEO  
American Senior Assistance program

**Saturday,  
November 13, 2021  
10:00 AM-11:30**

Register using Link or QRCode:



<https://www.aces.edu/go/healthyagingstjohncpr>

After registering you will receive an email for log-in

Everyone is Welcome to Join!



**ST. JOHN A.M.E.**

*Sharing the Word, Serving the People*

The Reverend Maurice Wright II,  
Senior Pastor

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

Return Service Requested

E-mail: [office@stjohnhuntsville.com](mailto:office@stjohnhuntsville.com)  
Website: [www.stjohnhuntsville.com](http://www.stjohnhuntsville.com)

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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

### ***Important Dates to Remember***

- ◆ November 4-6, 2021 Planning Meeting  
Daniel Payne Community Plaza  
1500 Daniel Payne Drive, Birmingham, AL 35214



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 26 Issue 11

November 2021

ENCOURAGING, EMPOWERING & ENABLING THE PEOPLE OF GOD



## The Lay Organization

### Laypersons Challenged to Love Mercy, Walk Humbly, Do Justice and Love Kindness on Lay Witness Sunday

Mrs. Nedra McDaniel

Officially, the Connectional Lay Witness Day was designated for observance throughout the AME Church on the 2nd Sunday during the month of October, at the Eleventh Biennial Session, in 1969. Lay Witness Sunday provides laypersons with the opportunity to witness about their faith in Jesus Christ and their commitment to fulfilling His mission in the world. This day was established for laypersons to carry out morning worship services at their respective local churches.



Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., President of  
Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University  
Lay Sunday Guest Speaker

On the second Sunday in October, October 10, 2021, the laypersons of St. John AME Church, Huntsville, led the worship service. The Quadrennial theme approved by the Connectional Lay Organization (2017-2021), "Laity Walking Humbly with God to Do Justice and to Love Kindness," was the theme for the service. The scripture reference was "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8 NASB).

Working within the guidelines of the CDC to reduce the risk for worshippers and to slow the spread of COVID-19, the service integrated in person participants and prerecorded virtual participants. Sister Pamela Whitehead gave announcements for the week. Sister Erica Harbin, first vice-president of the St. John Lay Organization, was the worship leader. Brother Reginald Pearson, director of Music and Christian Arts at St. John and musicians led the music for the service. Their music was augmented with the opening hymn, "Layman Hymn," recorded by the Connectional Music and Christian Arts Choir of the AME Church.

Brother Clifton Miller, chaplain of the St. John Lay Organization, offered the morning prayer. Sister Patricia Grier, secretary of the St. John Lay Organization, read the scripture from Micah 6:6-8. The occasion was given by Sister Claudinette Purifoy-Fears, St. John Lay Organization. She informed worshippers of the purpose of Lay Witness Sunday and highlighted the mission of the Lay Organization. She noted that the Lay are instruments of God's peace and emphasized that Lay persons should execute their mission with love, kindness and strive for service to all mankind. The Lay Litany was led by Sister Sharon Butler, Di-

(Continued on page 2)

## Lay Sunday Worship Service

rector of Lay Activities of the St. John Lay Organization. This litany was written by Evelyn Welch Graham (11th Episcopal District Director of Lay Activities, 2003).



Mrs. Abbiegail Hugine, introducing the Lay Worship Service speaker.

The speaker for the service was introduced by Sister Abbiegail Hugine. She introduced Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. from a special viewpoint that only a lifelong friend and wife of almost 49 years could do. Dr. Hugine is a son of the parsonage of the AME Church, has served in church leadership at the local, district and conference levels. He began his career as a mathematics instructor, has served in various administrative positions in higher education including former president of South Carolina State University, and is currently the 11<sup>th</sup> president of Alabama A&M University. They are the parents of two adult children and grandparents of three wonderful grandchildren.

Dr. Hugine brought an informative, inspirational, and challenging message as he highlighted how the church, the Lay, can carry out its mission. He related the AME church's mission and the theme for this Lay Witness Sunday, focusing on justice. He

gave four areas where the church should walk in justice.

1. The Lay must be concerned about the less fortunate. Do good. He highlighted issues of concern for those who do not have safe drinking water as well as the disproportionate employment and income ratios of blacks and whites in the state. He said the Lay must be concerned and adopt as their theme song "If I Can Help Somebody."
2. Lay must have a spirit of discernment to see that economic problems are political problems. It must be involved politically on issues such as health care racial discrimination, youth violence, and childcare. Elected officials must be held accountable and voter education drives must be expanded. He referenced Zachariah 7:8 as he highlighted the need to stop oppression.
3. Dr. Hugine stated that the Lay must address issues facing families and children. He supported his statement that families are under attack with numbers that state 29% of children in Alabama live in poverty. He noted that there is too much exposure to violence. He challenged the Lay to help with the instruction of children and to promote education. He gave examples of the AME colleges and universities that the church has sustained over the years. Dr. Hugine gave a plan that he calls the Nehemiah giving plan for higher education to support HBCU institutions. The plan would entail the 2,000,000 HBCU graduates giving \$100 per year. This plan would result in 200 million dollars for HBCUs a year and a billion dollars over a five-year period.
4. Using an acrostic, he gave the final challenge for what is required of the Lay to "do JUSTICE."  
J – Jesus teaches love, love of each other  
U – Understand the issues and problems  
S – Service  
T – Truth  
I – Integrity  
C – Commitment to change  
E – Equity for every man and woman.

## Lay Sunday Worship Service

*(Continued from page 2)*



Following this outstanding message, Pastor Wright extended the Invitation to Discipleship. Remarks and presentations were made by Brother Hodges Washington, president of the St. John Lay Organization. Prayer was offered by Sister Charlsie Brooks, followed by the Lay Benediction.

All members of St. John who are not clergy are Lay and are invited to actively participate in the St. John Lay Organization. Meetings are held bi-monthly, on the third Monday. If you missed this service, it is available for replay on St. John's media platforms of Facebook Live, the church's website and the church's YouTube channel.



The Lay Organization Officers with Pastors Maurice Wright and Joretha Wright.

L-R: Sister Erica Harbin, Sister Nedra McDaniel, Brother Hodges Washington, Lay President, the Reverend Joretha Wright and the Reverend Maurice Wright, II, Dr. Thalia Love-Brown, Sister Claudinette Purfoy-Fears, Sister Abbiegail Hugine and Brother Clifton Miller.

## AME Proud!

### Congratulations on Your Accomplishments!



First Lady Abbiegail Hugine of  
Alabama Agricultural &  
Mechanical University

Saturday, October 23, 2021 was a bittersweet day for the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University family as the First Lady, Mrs. Abbiegail Hugine gave reflections on her tenure as First Lady and her beloved project, the scholarship luncheon. Family, friends and church members gathered to celebrate this event with the First Lady. This was the tenth celebration of the scholarship luncheon initiated in 2011.

First Lady Abbiegail Hamilton Hugine, wife of the eleventh president of Alabama A&M University, Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. had embarked upon several new initiatives at the University to celebrate the legacy of the First Ladies of Alabama A&M. The luncheon, being one of several initiatives has provided much needed scholarship funding for deserving students attending the historic university.

The scholarship luncheon was an annual event, held in the month of March during Women's History Month, to celebrate the life and legacy of each of the First Ladies of Alabama A&M University. It is a time during which loyal alumni, faculty, staff, students, friends and supporters of the institution gather to reflect on the many contributions of the First Ladies. To date, thousands of dollars have been raised. The endowed scholarship has increased to \$252,333 as of this year. From the proceeds of the endowment, over \$52,200 in scholarships have been awarded to AAMU Students.

First Lady Hugine has lived true to the spirit of the University's motto: Service is Sovereignty. First Lady, Abbiegail Hugine and Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. are members of St. John AME Church.



Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. and  
First Lady Abbiegail Hugine.



Members of St. John AME Church joined First Lady Abbiegail Hugine for  
The First Lady's Scholarship Luncheon held on  
Saturday, October 23, 2021.



**AME Proud!**



Mr. Willie Love,  
Human Relations Commission Chair  
Huntsville City

**Congratulations Mr. Willie Love!**

## Human Relations Commission Chair Named

Willie Love, a retired Equal Opportunity Specialist for NASA who now works part-time at Alabama A&M University, was recently elected chair of the Human Relations Commission (HRC). The 13-member advisory board, which meets at City Hall on the last Wednesday of each month, seeks to promote mutual understanding, dignity, respect and cooperation among all residents in Huntsville. For Love, a four-term board member, the group is also about creating a more welcoming environment where people from different walks of life feel seen and heard. "It doesn't matter who you are or what you're about," he said. "If you have something you would like to share with us, then we want you there because we are an inclusive community. We believe all social groups should have an outlet to be able to talk about either the great things or the challenges that are going on in the community." Looking ahead, Love has several goals for the coming year. In addition to prepping the next set of HRC leaders, HRC also plans to engage and understand the community's needs and educating the public about its mission. The Police Citizens Advisory Council (HPCAQ), said HRC will continue to evolve as the City's

Mr. Willie Love and his wife, Rickshell are members of St. John AME Church.

**The St. John AME Military Ministry**

The St. John AME Military Ministry will meet on the first Thursday of each month via ZOOM.

Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Point of contact: Sister Felicia Carter, 256-529-2667

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NIUkZxVjR4VlRlbnBkdktm9oZz09>

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: S1a1rF

## One tap mobile

+19292056099,73489179993#,...\*078010# US (New York)

+13017158692,73489179993#,...,078010# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 829 205 8090 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6789 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 340 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 078010

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212121>





## A Story of Thanks and Giving

Mrs. Kay Lawson Adkins



Mrs. Kay Lawson Adkins

Around October 2020, after suffering from what I thought was hip pain, to name one of my physical issues, my primary care doctor referred me to a specialist at Huntsville Hospital.

Several weekends prior to my appointment had been filled with excitement! My son, daughter, husband and I had celebrated my husband Bobby's birthday! The next day, we drove to visit my in-laws in Mississippi for a day trip. This was meaningful to me because I would be afforded the opportunity for the first time ever to visit my Dad's gravesite on his birthday to clean his headstone.

My Dad had been a World War II Veteran and had the traditional veteran's headstone which is susceptible to growing moss and attracting other sediment. After he passed, I usually sojourned to the cemetery 1-3 times a year when we traveled to visit my in-laws. I would say a prayer of thanks to God for giving me such a wonderful Dad, reflect in quiet, meticulously clean two headstones, and leave flowers or some other memorabilia like flags. (The cemetery is actually a pretty quiet,

peaceful place unlike some other places you visit) My Dad would have celebrated his 111<sup>th</sup> Birthday on August 30, and 20 years had passed since he had moved to heaven!

As my daughter and I cleaned the headstones, we chatted about my Dad and my grandmother who is buried two plots away. We removed dirt and grime from the WWII letters and other indentations on his headstone. I remember hoping my daughter could later in life, perhaps, appreciate the significance of what we were doing that evening. My heart was filled because Samantha was with me. My son Collin was away in college and was not with me on this visit. However, he was with me the last time I was there to place some American flags for Memorial Day Holiday, and he wanted me to be certain to bring the proper cleaning supplies on my next visit. So, I had strategically gathered rags, soap, and a toothbrush from home and filled a container with water once we arrived at my in-laws home. Smiling with gratitude, I was thankful for the opportunity to posthumously serve my Dad on his birthday!

We returned home to Alabama late that night, and two days later I attended a scheduled appointment at the medical building adjacent to the hospital. After leaving the appointment and exiting the building, I was briefly mentally absorbed with thoughts about my doctor's visit when I noticed a car pull toward the curb. A lady exited her car, and she retrieved a wheelchair. So, I continued toward my car in the parking garage, and I HEARD HIM! The HOLY SPIRIT whispered, "See if they need some help". And for about three to five seconds, I quickly thought ... "I should be responsible and not delay going back to work... BUT on the other hand... I CLEARLY and REALLY should be a HELPFUL CHRISTIAN!" I decided work could wait! I KNEW I HAD TO follow what I am certain was GOD'S VOICE through the HOLY SPIRIT whispering, "Help them!"

So, I turned around and pleasantly approached the nicely dressed, attractive woman and with genuine concern asked, "Would you like me to wait with your husband while you park your car?" I thought back to times when my mother was likely in the same situation, having to take my elderly, wheelchair bound Dad to an appointment by herself. The compassionate woman asked her husband if he wanted me to wait with him, and he said, "I'll be ok." Knowing the right thing to do, I confidently said to the distinguished looking seniors, "Ma'am, I'll wait here until you park your car, just in case it takes a while. I don't mind." I didn't know how long it would take because it was close to 10am, and the parking lot was beginning to fill because more patients and employees were entering the building. My conscience would not allow me to leave the gentleman waiting alone, so the woman told her husband I had volunteered to wait with him while she parked the car.

You may be thinking: this is weird... Lady, I may not have asked for your assistance either ... But, I don't think the couple minded or felt threatened because I was quite polite and professionally dressed. So, the lady entered her car and drove through the entry gate of the multi-level parking garage to find the nearest available parking space, if she was like everyone else entering the garage.

## A Story of Thanks and Giving

Mrs. Kay Lawson Adkins

*(Continued from page 6)*

As she pulled away, I remember asking myself, "What type of small talk might I have while we wait? The gentleman seems really quiet." I quickly reflected on my numerous visits to the nursing homes in Texas. I usually visited with the Nursing Home Ministry at my previous church at least twice a month if not more often. I immediately remembered two subjects strangers are comfortable discussing. So, I asked the gentleman, "How are you enjoying this beautiful weather?" You see, it had been terribly cold in the mornings, and today it was comfortable enough to wear a light sweater. The man replied, "It's nice." I commented I was glad the weather seemed to be getting warmer.

Then I asked him the question that would bring about an astounding answer, "Are you from around here?" He said no and told me where he had lived, and then he made a statement that caused my mouth to literally drop as I froze in my steps with chill bumps. He said, "I attended Rust College before I came here to Alabama A&M University!"

I stood in unbelief and asked myself, "Dare I ask him?" I slowly uttered the question, "Did you know a man named Kinzell Lawson?" By the man's age, I thought it was possible, just possible he may have known my Dad! And... he replied, "Yes, I knew him!"

Rust College is a small HBCU in the town of Holly Springs, Mississippi, and everyone on campus knew everyone, especially my Dad! Coach Lawson, as everyone called him, talked to everyone, anywhere, and most people on the campus and in the town knew each other because the population was so small. Besides, my Dad could engage any stranger — anytime — and anywhere, even on a road trip at a rest stop — but that's another story.

My Dad had been an instructor, a coach, and was the athletic director when this gentleman was at Rust College. Like other employees at small colleges, he wore many hats during his 20 year tenure at the college. As the former athlete talked, the gentleman who had been rather subdued in the parking lot had become quite engaging with a stranger, his former coach's daughter. By this time we were in the lobby of the hospital after his wife parked the car and went to meet someone in the building. The gentleman glistened and reminisced about other players and shared a few stories and photos of former teammates, which I was surprised he had in his cell phone. He also told me about another coach cutting him from the team. My Dad had asked the coach why this particular player had not been at practice and inquired where that boy was... and my Dad told the coach, "Go get that boy, and put him back on the team!" In terms of fondness, all of my Dad's players were referred to as "his boys". They were not his biological children, and they were not just athletes recruited to win games for the college. My Dad truly cared about the trajectory of their lives. He knew sports provided a training ground of sorts for their futures.

My Dad had a few gifts: One was the ability to engage anyone, of any age, in conversation. Another was teaching science and math. His memory was unparalleled. But, his passion was sports! He LOVED ball sports: football, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis, and billiards. He recognized raw athleticism and could mold a young man (or woman) into a competitive athlete if they provided the tenacity for practice. During Coach Lawson's career, he guided numerous young men (too many to count) to enroll at Rust College to become not only skilled athletes but also college graduates.

At the medical building, I met yet another man who had been positively impacted by my Dad. Although, he only knew my Dad for a year or two, that's all it took for him to remember Coach Lawson.

The president of the college canceled the football program at Rust College, and another coach seized an opportunity for himself and several players to go to Alabama A&M University which is about 3 hours away from Rust College.

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Church School Lesson Overview – December 2021

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer.

### December 5, 2021

**Lesson Title:** Justice and Obedience

**Lesson Scripture:** Deuteronomy 5; 10; 27; 28-1-2

**Print:** Deuteronomy 5:1b-3; 10:12-13; 27:1-10

**Devotional Songs:** #377[], #251[], and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "Now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the Lord, and His statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?" (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

In this lesson God's requirements are for our good with limits on our freedoms being in our best interest. The intent is that believers accept His will and become a blessing for the world to see. A time can be seen when God's people are reminded and they are called to make a just society to reveal the just God they served.

### December 12, 2021

**Lesson Title:** Justice and Kindness

**Lesson Scripture:** 2 Samuel 9

**Print:** 2 Samuel 9:1-7, 9-12

**Devotional Songs:** #77[]; #272[]; and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "David said, is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" (2 Samuel 9:1).

In this lesson there is a comparison made between Samuel, who was well-respected throughout the land and his sons, who did not receive the same esteem. The Israelites insisted that Samuel provide them an earthly king, as the other nations had. They tired of the abuse from Samuel's sons. They pushed back against God's desire for them to be priestly, holy nation that God ruled. The Lord did as they wanted and Saul was chosen as king. Saul, however, was not obedient to God's commands and the Lord rejected him, Samuel anointed David to be Saul's successor.

### December 19, 2021

**Lesson Title:** Justice and Righteousness

**Lesson Scripture:** Isaiah 9:1-7

**Print:** Isaiah 9:2-7

**Devotional Songs:** #525[]; #77[]; and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon

His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:7).

The commentary takes a high-level view of this lesson text, which is frequently called The Book of Immanuel, as its focus is on the promised blessing of God's presence with us. Back then there was an immediate need for God's divine presence because of a war where Syria and the northern kingdom of Israel teamed up against Judah, the southern kingdom.

### December 26, 2021

**Lesson Title:** Justice and Deliverance

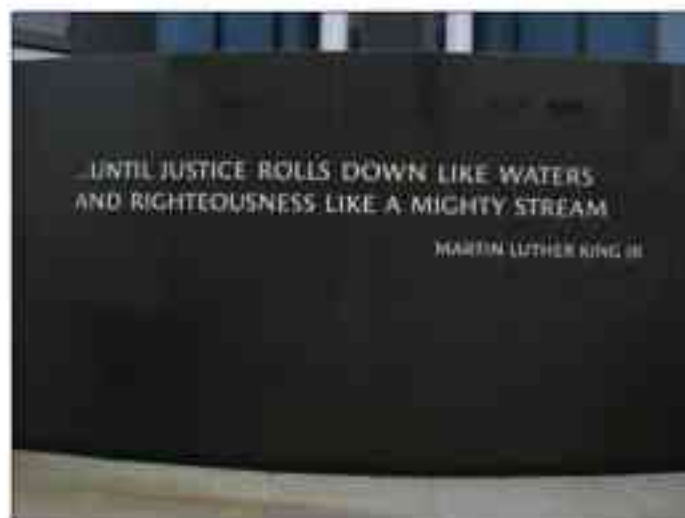
**Lesson Scripture:** Psalm 84

**Print:** Psalm 84

**Devotional Songs:** #424[]; #258[]; and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "God is jealous, and the Lord revengeth; the Lord revengeth, and is furious; the Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries, and He reserveth wrath for His enemies." (Nahum 1:2).

In this lesson Manasseh, has turned to God while in prison. He led a spiritual revival after he got back to Jerusalem in the southern kingdom. However, a similar revival had not happened in the northern kingdom of Israel and there was no repentance of evil by kings nor by people. The Lord used violence from the Assyrians as a tool of punishment for the northern kingdom.



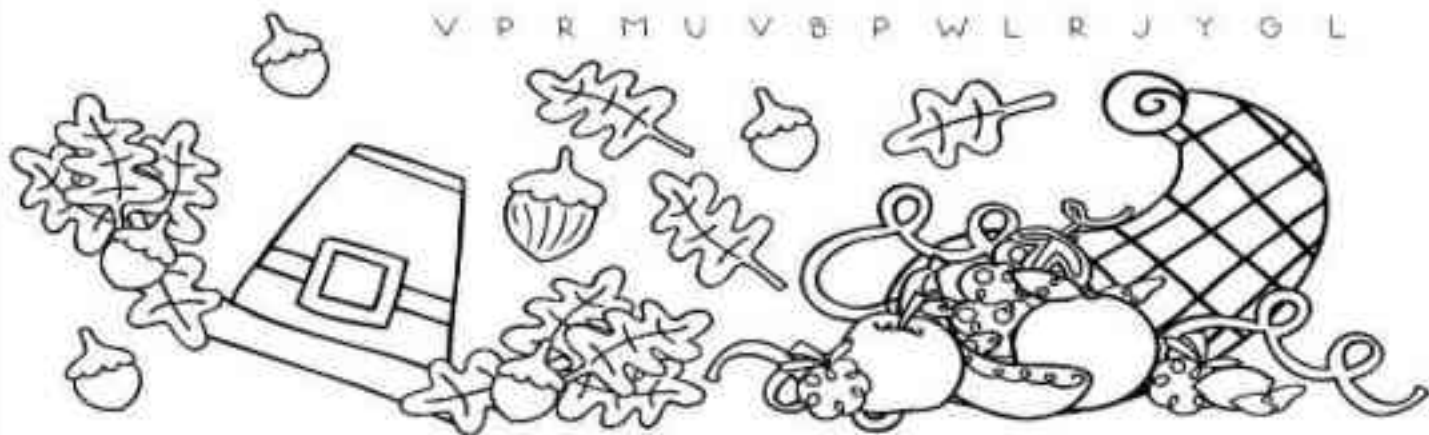
## Kid's Corner

# THANKSGIVING



Pie  
Corn  
Pudding  
Gobble  
Stuffing  
Turkey  
Thanksgiving  
Pilgrim  
Indian  
Gratitude  
Thankful  
Cornucopia  
Family  
Friendship  
Gather

P R N I L R T I G C E P Y D I  
G I D X E U H A O L D U L J I  
Z C E H R K A R U R U D I N Q  
G S T K Z Y N F O M T D M X Y  
R A E A V U K K S A I I A U Y  
G Y B L C N S P Q P T N F W R  
U N E O A A G E I L A G V S B  
P Z P H Q N I U L L R A Y L R  
N I T L N D V G W B G N Q R H  
A S T U F F I N G G B R L F U  
N A I D N I N Q U Z I O I Y P  
T T L U G L G C O R N H G M X  
K T K U P L H S D N E I R F F  
Y A R T J D H B W K Q B H D L  
V P R M U V B P W L R J Y G L



[Pinterest Post] Pinterest. Retrieved November 20 21, from <http://pinterest.com>

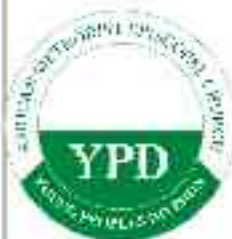
*Congratulations!*  
*Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Pippin*



*50th*  
*Anniversary*



## Young People's Division



### "Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

A Message from the YPD  
Director, Mrs. Deidre Walton

- Check out the 9th district YPD Facebook page
- Contact Mrs. Walton at [deetergatesjones@gmail.com](mailto:deetergatesjones@gmail.com), [stypdhsv@gmail.com](mailto:stypdhsv@gmail.com), or (703-772-1121).

St. John AME Church  
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society  
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President  
Young People's Division  
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director



Members of St. John AME Church  
You are cordially invited back to in-person worship

on

Sunday, December 5, 2021  
for the 10:00 a.m. service.

All CDC protocols will be followed.

1. Temperatures will be taken at the door.
2. Everyone will be required to wear a mask while in the sanctuary.
3. Seating will be designated.
4. Social distancing will be practiced.

The service will continue to be livestreamed via the usual platforms.

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 cellphone  
Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWliR3NXZz09)  
[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWliR3NXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWliR3NXZz09)

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



## Church School Book Club

November 20, 2021

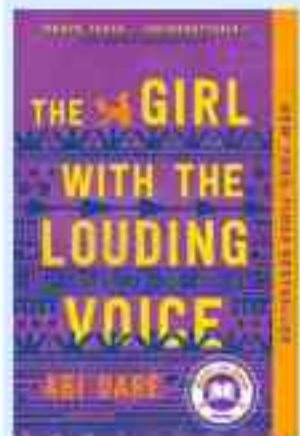
Discussion Date: November 20, 2021  
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.



Black Boy Joy  
By  
Kwame Mbalia (Editor)

December 18, 2021

Discussion Date: December 18, 2021  
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.



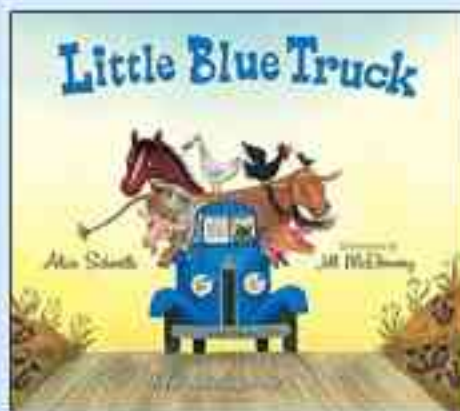
*The Girl with the Louding Voice*,  
Dare, Abi, 2020.

The unforgettable, inspiring story of a teenage girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so that she can find her "louding voice" and speak up for herself. *The Girl with the Louding Voice* is a simultaneously heartbreaking and triumphant tale about the power of fighting for

your dreams. Despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles in her path, Adunni never loses sight of her goal of escaping the life of poverty she was born into so she can build the future she chooses for herself – and help other girls like her do the same. Her spirited determination to find joy and hope in even the most difficult circumstances imaginable will "break your heart and then put it back together again" (Jenna Bush Hager on *The Today Show*) even as Adunni shows us how one courageous young girl can inspire us all to reach for our dreams...and maybe even change the world. – Amazon

## Young Readers' Café

Selection submitted by Mrs. Claire Philadelphia



by  
Alice Schertle  
  
Ages  
Baby to 3 Years

Selection submitted by Ms. Paula Phippen



Steven T. Gray  
And  
Vernon D. Gibbs

"I'm Dreaming of a Brown Christmas" is a full color picture book and poem inspired by the lyrics of the classic Christmas song "White Christmas", but as imagined through the eyes of a young African-American child living in the city.

Written and illustrated by cousins Steven T. Gray and Vernon D. Gibbs II, the words and images celebrate many of the wonderful brown things we all enjoy at Christmastime like fresh-baked cookies, warm cups of hot chocolate, and a golden brown turkey hot from the oven. But most importantly, this book celebrates the many shades of brown skin the young child sees on the faces of his family and friends.

—Amazon



## *Celebrating an Era of Transformative Leadership*

**Retirement Roast  
Saturday, December 11, 2021  
6:00pm in the evening  
T. M. Elmore Health Science Building  
Alabama A&M University**

**—SOLD OUT—**

## A Story of Thanks and Giving

Mrs. Kay Lawson Adkins

*(Continued from page 7)*

This gentleman and countless other athletes who were coached and mentored by my Dad went on to become professionals and leaders in other communities.

By this time, his wife had rejoined us. He said to me, "I have one more story before you go." He told me of a story my Dad had shared with some of his athletes about driving to Memphis late one night and getting his car lights bashed out by a truck driver. Again, I stood in awe because my mother Charlotte had shared this particular story with me earlier in life, and she still remembers the incident because she was with my Dad when it happened! Only someone who had known my Dad could truly recount that particular story!

I thanked the distinguished athlete for everything he had shared with me that day! It had truly been a pleasure to meet him and his wife.

Furthermore, a few months later they shared my contact information with another one of my Dad's athletes who called me!

I thanked GOD for reminding me HE IS TRULY in control of HIS UNIVERSE, and HE is NEAR to us all the time. HE DIVINELY ORCHESTRATES our lives and just when we need uplifting HE IS ALWAYS THERE FOR US! All we need to do is LISTEN for HIS VOICE and heed his instructions!

My medical concern did not give me an exemption from being a caring CHRISTIAN when the opportunity presented itself. By listening to and following the HOLY SPIRIT, GOD was able to bless me in a way that was remarkably unexpected! THE FATHER carefully laid out a plan for me to meet someone who knew my earthly father, and once again my heart overflowed with joy because of HIS DIVINE ORCHESTRATION!

\*This was a personal story written from the author's point of view.



## Announcements



### Worship Service Live Streaming

The 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms:

- Church website: [www.stjohnhuntsville.com](http://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

### Audio Listening only of the 10:00 am worship service (3 steps)

1. First, Dial.....**321-626-6799**
2. Next, dial .....**889-5387-3674**
3. Then, dial .....**090 252**

### St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

Bible Study each Wednesday evening via ZOOM.  
ZOOM Link is sent out to the congregation on email.

**Discussion topic: Study of Job**

Contact the church office for a copy of the lesson outline.

Email: [office@stjohnhuntsville.com](mailto:office@stjohnhuntsville.com)

Phone: 256-534-3265



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using  
Givelify, PayPal, CashApp@SSTJOHNHSV 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 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tithes           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offering         | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School    | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soup Kitchen     | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Payne     | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Project | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Food Box | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other            | _____  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | _____  |

# December 2021

| Sun                                                                                                                                                           | Mon                                                                                                                  | Tue                                                                          | Wed                            | Thu                                                          | Fri                                                                                                          | Sat                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                      |                                                                              | 1<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study  | 2<br>Military Ministry Meeting<br>via ZOOM<br>6:00pm-7:30 pm | 3                                                                                                            | 4<br>Communion<br>Element Pick-up<br>10:00-12:00 noon                                       |
| 5<br>8:45a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br>Holy Communion<br>    | 6<br>Fifty-Plus Meeting<br>10:00 am ZOOM<br>3:00 p.m.<br>History Males Ministry<br>6:00 p.m.<br>CFR Ministry<br>ZOOM | 7                                                                            | 8<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study  | 9                                                            | 10                                                                                                           | 11                                                                                          |
| 12<br>8:45a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br>                   | 13                                                                                                                   | 14<br>11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.<br>SOUP KITCHEN                                   | 15<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study | 16                                                           | 17                                                                                                           | 18<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Church School Book Club                                                 |
| 19<br>8:45a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br>                   | 20<br>Lay Organization Meeting<br>6:00 pm<br>Via ZOOM                                                                | 21<br>Soup Kitchen meals<br>will be served and<br>delivered next<br>Tuesday. | 22<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Bible Study | 23                                                           | 24<br>Christmas Eve<br> | 25<br> |
| 26<br>8:45a.m.<br>Church School<br>10:00 a.m. Worship<br><br>Kwanzaa Begins | 27                                                                                                                   | 28<br>11:30 a.m.-1:00<br>p.m.<br>SOUP KITCHEN                                | 29                             | 30                                                           | 31<br>                  |                                                                                             |

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

Return Service Requested

E-mail: [office@stjohnhuntsville.com](mailto:office@stjohnhuntsville.com)  
Website: [www.stjohnhuntsville.com](http://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

# Happy Thanksgiving



*From the  
St. John AMEN  
Newsletter Staff*



INDJJC

*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. Roman's 10:9*

ST. JOHN  
**A.M.E.N** NEWSLETTER



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 26 Issue 12

December 2021

ENCOURAGING, EMPOWERING & ENABLING THE PEOPLE OF GOD



## Welcome Back to In-Person Worship

B. A. Johnson

### Welcome Back to In-Person Worship



Dr. Pamela Whitehead,  
Church Secretary welcoming every-  
one to the service.

The last time members of the congregation were in the sanctuary for worship was March 17, 2020 for the 135th church anniversary. It was overcast outside, but the spirit was high on the inside. The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Bishop of the Ninth Episcopal District was the speaker for the occasion. Following the service, everyone joined the pastors outside with umbrellas as the dedication of the St. John historical marker took place. Afterwards, everyone proceeded to the Board of Realtor's building for a "Downhome Country Sunday Dinner" to end the celebration. What a great memory.

Then came the pandemic...COVID-19. A virus. Highly contagious. People dying. No cure in sight. Nothing like it since the Spanish Flu of 1918. Lock down. Shut down. Closed until further notice. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announcing conflicting information daily, the federal government making light of the situation and misinformation being aired constantly.



The Second Sunday of Advent  
presented by the  
Hill Family.

Churches across the district were shuttered. Pastors had to learn a new way of meeting the spiritual needs of the congregation. A new delivery system had to be devised and quickly. Social media became the answer. Churches were facilitating services via Face Book, YouTube, and a new platform which came to be known as ZOOM. St. John was no exception. The media team assumed the awesome task of projecting the services via these platforms. Church School, Bible Study, 50+ Auxiliary, WMS, Lay Witness and Caregivers ministry were all "ZOOMING" on a regular bases. Official church meetings, local, district-wide and even the general session were made accessible via ZOOM and Face Book Live. What many assumed would be short-lived turned into days, weeks, months and then everyone was welcoming the new year, 2021 via ZOOM. And at this time, December 2021 almost two years into a pandemic, the church is preparing to again welcome the year 2022 via ZOOM.

However, as the great news of an effective vaccine became available and hundreds became fully vaccinated and boosted-up, it was time to visit the possibility of returning to the sanctuary...safely.



The Reverend Maurice Wright, II  
Servant Pastor  
Preaching the Sermon.

Following all CDC protocols, temperature checks, hand sanitizing and social distancing, the sanctuary of St. John AME Church welcomed members on Sunday, December 5, 2021. All precautions were taken to maintain the safety of those who chose to attend. Everyone chose their level of engagement based on the sticker they selected; green stickers indicated hugs were acceptable, red stickers, wave from a distance. The seating was designated to accommodate up to eighty persons, at least seventy persons were in attendance.

Dr. Pamela Whitehead welcomed those in the attendance as well as those watching via the social media platforms to a return to the sanctuary. The Hill family led the congregation in the second Sunday presentation of Advent. The Pastor led the congregation in the sermonic hymn, *Farther Along* as he recounted the memories of he and the

(Continued on page 7)

## Caregivers Prayer and Respite Ministry's Annual Caregivers' Appreciation Month Workshop



*November-National Caregivers Appreciation Month*

*By B. A. Johnson*

November is National Family Caregivers Month, a time to recognize the **40 million** Americans who take care of loved ones – helping them live independently at home where they want to be. What family caregivers do is extraordinary – adult children, taking care of parents; husbands and wives caring for their spouses; mothers and fathers caring for adult children. They deserve the utmost gratitude and support throughout the year and most

especially during the month of November when the nation traditionally give thanks. Together – family caregivers spend **37 billion hours** each year providing unpaid assistance to their loved ones – a contribution valued at **\$470 billion**. They help with bathing and dressing, driving to appointments, preparing meals, managing medications, handling finances and so much more. Many are also juggling full-time and/or part-time jobs, and some are still raising their own families. Without a doubt, family caregivers are the backbone of our healthcare system.

The Caregivers, Prayer and Respite (CPR) Ministry at St. John AME Church was established in 2015, under the auspices of the Steward Board's Congregational Care. The goal was to support members of the congregation who were caregivers and their families. For the past six years, the CPR Ministry, has organized workshops to provide valuable information to caregivers. The St. John CPR Ministry has partnered with Mrs. Donna Gullatte, Agent, with the Madison County Cooperative Extension to provide workshop information and speakers of interest. The CPR Ministry works collaboratively with the St. John Soup Kitchen to provide a hot, delicious meal to the sick and shut-in members and their caregivers on the third Tuesday of each month. Sometimes, it is just the little things that go a long way. The goal of the CPR Ministry, is also to let caregivers know that they are not alone and that there are many resources available to them in the community. The CPR Ministry serves as a contact for caregivers in accessing community resources.

Many issues dealing with elder care have been addressed during these workshops. Previous topics have ranged from legal issues, to insurance issues, to Medicare provisions, to in-home and nursing facility concerns. And what has been discovered is that attendees for the workshops have either been caregivers, are currently caregiving, or are about to become caregivers.

The last two annual workshops were held virtually due to the pandemic. The Annual Caregivers Appreciation Workshop this year was also held virtually on Saturday, November 13, 2021. Mrs. Donna Gullatte organized the event through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. The presenter for the occasion was Mrs. Chanda Crutcher, Director of the Legacy Center located in Huntsville.

The theme for the event was "Living Your Legacy: Know. Plan. Live." Mrs. Crutcher's first question was, "In what quarter of life are you living right now? Twenty-Two to Twenty-Five, you're in the first quarter. Twenty-five to fifty, the second quarter of life; Fifty to seventy-five in the third quarter and seventy-five and above the fourth quarter." The quarter of life you are in determines how you should begin planning for the next quarter. Just like a football game, if the home team is behind in the 3rd quarter, they still have time to win in the fourth, if they plan. If the winning team is in the 4th quarter, they still must plan until the bell sounds.

Which quarter are you in? If an individual finds themselves in the 3rd quarter, they have just enough time to successfully plan for the 4th quarter. Mrs. Crutcher offered these suggestions for planning for the next quarter.

1. To live successfully in the fourth quarter a person must be physically strong to prevent falls.
2. To live successfully a person should maintain some level of physical activity at least 3-4 times a week.
3. The high usage of medication is a major indicator of pre-morbidity. Have your pharmacy evaluate all your medications at

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Caregivers Prayer and Respite Ministry's Annual Caregivers' Appreciation Month Workshop

(Continued from page 3)

- Least once a year to prevent negative medication interactions.
- 4. To live successfully create situations for new experiences, make new friends, form new habits, and learn new hobbies or a new skill.
- 5. To live successfully a person must realize their own value and how their life impacts others positively.

Mrs. Crutcher emphasized that practicing these five principles enables better coping skills for caregivers, because while the caregiver is caring for the loved one, they are also caring for themselves.

Pre-planning in the third quarter is essential. How an individual finishes strong, depends on the pre-planning which has taken place early in the game. Mrs. Crutcher stipulated that these items should be in place as early as the second quarter of life, but certainly by the third quarter. They were:

- ♦ A Last Will and Testament...put your wishes in writing and re-visit the plan annually.
- ♦ A Durable Power of Attorney...who is going to speak for you in the event you can not advocate for yourself?
- ♦ Advanced Directive for Health Care...allows an individual to have personal input into one's health decisions.
- ♦ A "POD" ( Paid On Death Certificate ) obtained from the bank. A POD Certificate gives a designated individual access to an individual's financial accounts immediately upon death.

Mrs. Crutcher ended the presentation with this thought from, Mrs. Thelma Fuqua "Live as long as you're living and walk into your fourth quarter with excitement." Each attendee received a gift bag stuffed with informational booklets, and home health aides as a thank-you gift for their participation.

The Caregivers Prayer and Respite (CPR) Ministry meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. For the past two years meetings have been held via ZOOM. New members are always welcome. Sister Abbiegail Hugine serves as the chairperson for the CPR Ministry. The CPR Ministry is currently recruiting a secretary. If interested please contact Sister Hugine.

The Legacy Center is located at 2212 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, AL. They can be reached by calling 256-382-0426. The Legacy Center believes in the value of intergenerational engagement, everyone should be afforded the opportunity to live as long as they are living, and in the power of community to provide the answers necessary for the vulnerable to thrive.

### Other Elder Care Resources:

- ♦ American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) : [aarp.org/iheartcaregivers](http://aarp.org/iheartcaregivers)
- ♦ The Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
Alabama A&M University—Auburn University  
Virginia Caples Lifelong Learning Institute  
Mrs. Donna Gullatte, Agent
- ♦ TARCOC-Area Agency on Aging  
(Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments)  
256-716-2455

The next two pages contain all the resources available through TACOG



**TARCOG**  
**Area Agency on Aging**  
**5075 Research Drive NW**  
**Huntsville, AL 35805**  
**256-716-2666**  
**[www.tarcog.us](http://www.tarcog.us)**

### Aging & Disability Resource Center

- TARCOG Triage Unit
- One Stop Shop for Aging Services
- Provides one on one counseling to assist consumers in exploring a full range of long and short-term support options
- Provides resources and services that support the needs of family caregivers
- Assistance with applications and referrals

#### Alabama Cares

Provides support to family caregivers by providing Education, Information, Access Assistance, Respite and Supplemental services to help them take care of their aging loved ones and themselves.

#### Eligibility Requirements

- Primary Caregiver for an older person age 60 + or any age if the person has Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia
- The care recipient must be 60 years or older and need help with at least three activities of daily living.
- There is no income limit, but there is a cost share based on the care recipient's income.
- Grandparent or relative caregiver, age 55+ (not a parent) for a child age 18 or younger or an adult age 19-59

#### Services Provided

- Temporary Respite Care to provide brief periods of relief or rest for caregivers to help prevent stress and burnout. Respite is provided two to four times per month. Respite care includes personal care, sitter/companion, and light housework.

#### Medicaid Waiver

The Home and Community-Based Care (HCBC) program is designed to provide services for seniors and the disabled whose needs would otherwise need to be served in nursing homes. Our goal is for clients to retain their independence by providing services that allow them to live in their own homes in the communities they love for as long as they can.

#### Requirements

- Must have SSI Medicaid or meet deeming requirement. Monthly income cannot exceed \$2,199 for deeming requirement.
- You must be disabled enough to qualify for a nursing facility level of care.

#### Services Provided

- Homemaking
- Personal Care
- Respite
- Companion Care
- Case management

### Legal Assistance

- Legal services provided by a licensed Elder Law Attorney
- Must be age 60 or over
- Donations Accepted
- Type of Services include:
  - Estate Planning and document preparation
  - Medicaid Issues
  - Consumer Issues
- Matters Not Handled
  - Criminal Matters
  - Bankruptcy
  - Fee Generating Cases

### Nutrition Program

- Hot nutritious meal at lunch time Monday to Friday
- Provided at Senior Centers throughout the counties and Meals on Wheels
- Donation accepted on a voluntary basis

### State Health Insurance Assistance Program

- Insurance counseling and assistance
- Provide answers to questions:
  - Medicare benefits
  - Medicaid
  - Long Term Care Insurance
- Provide information and materials designed to assist Medicare Beneficiaries with:
  - Home Health benefits
  - Medicare Claims and Appeals
  - Medicare Savings programs
- Medicare Part D
  - Assists with comparing drug plans
  - Assists with signing up for drug plans
- Medicare Savings Programs
  - Pays Medicare Part B premium which is \$134 per month for a yearly savings of \$1,608.
  - Must financially qualify

### Senior Rx

- Assist seniors to apply for free drugs from pharmaceutical companies
- 55 years of age or older
- Have no prescription drug coverage, be in the two year waiting period for Medicare eligibility, or be in the donut hole.

### Ombudsman

- Advocates to ensure that residents in nursing homes and ALF receive quality care
- Investigate and resolve complaints
- Act as mediator between residents, family members and facility staff
- Visit facilities to evaluate conditions

### Senior Employment

- Provides paid training, work experience and extra income to seniors 55 years or old who want to reenter the work force on a part-time basis
- You must have an income for 1 person-\$15,075 or for 2 people-\$20,300 to qualify.

## Military Ministry News

LTC. (Ret.) Felicia Carter

### The St. John AME Military Ministry

The St. John AME Military Ministry will meet on the first Thursday of each month via ZOOM.  
Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Point of contact: Sister Felicia Carter, 256-529-2667

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993?pwd=c2NIUkxvVjRlbnR5d0k1M0p0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 51a1rF

One tap mobile

+1 929 205 8099,,73469179993#,...\*078010# US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592,,73469179993#,...\*078010# US (Washington DC)

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 734 6917 9993

Passcode: 078010

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73469179993>



*(Continued from page 2)*

Reverend Derwood Wilson, Grandpa, having talked about this day when everyone would return to the sanctuary. It aroused some bittersweet memories for everyone as Pastor Wright recalled those who were present in March 2017, but were now gone...Mr. Aaron Freeman, Mr. Alvin Hardwick, Mrs. Lanita Slaton, Mr. Jerry Patton, and young Sister Nina Johnson. We remember those who are no longer physically in the sanctuary, but were there in spirit.

It was a time of reflection and welcoming on the second Sunday of December 2021, when the sanctuary opened for worship. Though the numbers in attendance will continue to be limited, the worship service will continue to be lived-streamed on all the social media platforms. The church will continue to preach the word and reach out to those who are saved and unsaved; For that is the Great Commission.

And yet, are we alive to praise His Holy name one more time.





## Poinsettia Tribute



During the month of December St. John pauses to honor those members who have passed during the year with a Poinsettia tribute. Members of the congregation are asked to bring poinsettias, not only to adorn the sanctuary, but as a visual reminder of the loved ones who have transitioned to receive their heavenly reward. St. John pauses now to acknowledge those who have passed while the congregation has been away from the sanctuary with a poinsettia tribute.

**St. John honors these members who passed during the year 2020.**



Mrs. Alberta Jefferson  
January 2020



Mr. Aaron Freeman  
March 2, 2020



Mother Princetta Mackey  
May 3, 2020



Mother Idell Merrell  
June 6, 2020



Mrs. Lanita (Nita) Slaton  
July 21, 2020



Mr. Herman Ballard  
August 21, 2020



Mr. Charles Glover, Jr.  
August 21, 2020



The Reverend Horace Fitchard, Jr.  
September 26, 2020

**St. John honors these members and friends who passed in the year 2021.**



Col. (ret.) Charles (E.C.) Smith  
February 13, 2021



Mrs. Bessie Smith  
June 16, 2021



Mr. Jerry Patton  
July 1, 2021



Mrs. Maria Jones Walton  
August 24, 2021



The Reverend Derwood Wilson  
September 11, 2021



Miss Nina Marie Johnson  
October 5, 2021



## Church School Lesson Overview – January 2022

The reviews were written by Brother Willie Sandifer.

### January 2, 2022

**Lesson Title:** Justice, Vengeance, and Mercy

**Lesson Scripture:** Genesis 4

**Print:** Scripture Genesis 4:1-13

**Devotional Songs:** #450[], #251[], and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground." (Genesis 4:10).

This lesson examines the first murder recorded in the Bible. Cain, a murderer is engaged in a long conversation with God and is allowed to live with the knowledge of his actions. The readers learn of God's reply to this brutal killing.

### January 9, 2022

**Lesson Title:** Hagar and Ishmael not Forgotten

**Lesson Scripture:** Genesis 21:8-21

**Print:** Genesis 21:8-20

**Devotional Songs:** #355[], #272[], and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." (2 Samuel 9:1).

This lesson examines God's response to Abraham and Sarah's yearning to have children by allowing Abraham to impregnate Hagar, who was a slave woman. Ishmael's birth caused challenges for Abraham, for Sarah, and for Hagar. Abraham found himself in a situation to either honor Sarah's request to send Ishmael and Hagar away or allow mounting family friction.

### January 16, 2022

**Lesson Title:** The Laws of Justice and Mercy

**Lesson Scripture:** Exodus 23

**Print:** Exodus 23:1-12

**Devotional Songs:** #525[], #77[], and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "You shall not follow a majority on wrongdoing, when you hear witness in a lawsuit, you shall not side with the majority so as to pervert justice; nor shall you be partial to the poor in a lawsuit." (Exodus 23:2-3).

God commanded that the system of justice treated everyone fairly in various situations like accusations, charges, prosecu-

tions, and verdicts. The system was to not include false allegations and ill-will. God's system of justice allowed compassionate care of the environment, of animals, and of servants.

### January 23, 2022

**Lesson Title:** Justice, Judges, and Priests

**Lesson Scripture:** Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 17:8-13; 19:15-21

**Print:** Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 17:8-13

**Devotional Songs:** #377[], #258[], and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "You shall appoint judges and officials throughout your tribes, in all your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall render just decisions for the people." (Deuteronomy 16:18).

This lesson focuses on a court system that God provided Israel that is copied in many countries today, allowing for a decision by a court to be appealed to judges who are seated in a higher court. The role of the judges was fulfilled by the priests and this is the main difference between the courts God established in Israel and modern courts.

### January 30, 2022

**Lesson Title:** Justice and the Marginalized

**Lesson Scripture:** Deuteronomy 24:10-21

**Print:** Deuteronomy 24:10-21

**Devotional Songs:** #321[], #258[], and #243[]

**Key Verse:** "Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore, I command you to do this." (Deuteronomy 24:18).

The focus of this lesson was on the society which God established for the Israelites. It was very different in that all laws (e.g. civil, criminal, or family) aimed to produce the idea of community governance. Everyone was to be treated fairly. Moses passed on God's edicts to judges, to leaders, to employers, and to farmers.





# Kids Corner

Printable 4 Less      Printable 4 Less      Printable 4 Less

## Christmas Word Search



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | E | V | L | E | D | N | A | L | R | A | G | A | E | E | O | S | Z |
| E | A | R | E | E | D | N | I | E | R | K | I | J | N | J | T | L | Y |
| C | O | Z | E | X | A | F | F | P | Y | P | F | O | A | O | W | L | L |
| Y | B | T | G | P | C | Y | E | K | R | U | T | J | C | L | E | E | L |
| E | U | L | E | Q | A | K | C | D | T | Z | G | K | Y | L | L | B | O |
| E | G | L | E | L | D | P | I | S | W | N | I | C | D | Y | G | E | H |
| R | S | C | E | S | T | Q | G | U | L | N | V | T | N | M | U | L | A |
| T | E | Q | Y | T | N | S | N | G | J | I | D | A | L | I | G | I |   |
| S | K | M | G | C | I | I | I | S | I | B | N | C | C | I | H | N | T |
| A | A | D | O | W | M | D | T | M | D | P | G | E | L | A | S | I | T |
| M | L | D | N | R | L | U | E | R | H | Y | P | W | T | S | R | J | E |
| T | F | Z | G | H | F | R | S | L | B | M | B | A | V | S | E | F | S |
| S | W | N | G | F | P | E | G | O | O | R | C | S | R | A | L | I | N |
| I | O | B | E | H | L | H | A | S | H | T | A | E | R | W | O | U | I |
| R | N | R | V | E | K | M | X | O | W | Y | W | N | S | B | R | A | O |
| H | S | U | A | L | C | A | T | N | A | S | R | J | K | T | A | Y | P |
| C | D | V | F | S | T | B | S | N | O | I | T | A | R | O | C | E | D |

|                |              |                   |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| candy cane     | holly        | snowflakes        |
| carolers       | jingle bells | stocking stuffers |
| christmas tree | jelly        | tinsel            |
| decorations    | mistletoe    | turkey            |
| eggnog         | poinsettia   | wassail           |
| elves          | reindeer     | wrapping paper    |
| garland        | santa claus  | wreath            |
| gift giving    | scrooge      | yuletide          |

Printable 4 Less      Printable 4 Less      Printable 4 Less

[Pinterest Post] Pinterest. Retrieved December 2021, from <http://pinterest.com>

Thank You!

Reverend Wright and members of St. John AME Church,

Thank you for all the prayers, visits, cards, phone calls, monetary gifts, and well wishes shown me during the passing of my sister, Sallie Hobbs and also during my recovery from surgery. People don't have to be kind to you, but when they do you should say, "Thank you." The overwhelming responses of love have meant a lot to me and have touched my heart.

Again, thank you,  
Brother Lafayette Townsend, Sr.

Thank You!

Pastor Wright, officers and members of St. John AME Church, thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness shown during my hospitalization, rehabilitation and recovery. Continue to pray for a full recovery. Your care and concern will always be remembered.

In Christian Love,  
Mrs. Hedy S. Ibezim-Phillips

Thank You

Reverend Wright and members of St. John AME, my heart was warmed by the many cards, calls and expressions of care and concern shown during my hospitalization and recovery. Your thoughtfulness will always be cherished.

Blessings,  
Deaconess Charlie Brooks

## Young People's Division



### "Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

A Message from the YPD  
Director, Mrs. Deidre Walton

- Check out the 9th district YPD Facebook page
- Contact Mrs. Walton at [deetergatesjones@gmail.com](mailto:deetergatesjones@gmail.com), [stypdhsv@gmail.com](mailto:stypdhsv@gmail.com), or (703-772-1121).

St. John AME Church  
Betty E. Derrick, Women's Missionary Society  
Mrs. Lorraine Parham, President  
Young People's Division  
Mrs. Deidre Walton, Director

During the months of December and January 2022  
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 cellphone**  
**Join Zoom Meeting by typing this link into your browser:**  
**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/462687112?pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWliR3NXZz09)**  
**[pwd=MVdZcXR6SEZPMFRCL0J4cWliR3NXZz09](#)**

**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**



## Church School Book Club

**December 18, 2021**

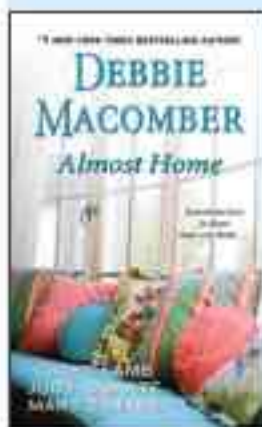
**Discussion Date: December 18, 2021  
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**



*The Girl with the Louding Voice,*  
Dare, Abi, 2020.

**January 2022**

**Discussion Date: Jan. 15, 2022  
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**



*Almost Home,*  
Macomber, Debbie, 2009

Old flames reignite and new passions burn when lovers follow their hearts back to the place they once called home. . . . —Amazon

## Young Readers' Café

Selection submitted by Mrs. Claire Philadelphia



The Holiday Wishing Well

by

Ned Perkins, Author

Sameer Kassir, Illustrator

Living in Harlem, Christmas time was the most exciting time of the year for young Carter. Carter was looking forward to singing Christmas carols and having snowball fights with his friends. However, there was one thing that Carter needed to make this Christmas an extraordinary one, and he knew just where to go. The Magic Wishing Well.  
—Amazon

Selection submitted by Ms. Paula Phippen



I Got the Christmas Spirit

By Connie Schofield-Morrison

Frank Morrison,

Illustrator

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and a mother and daughter are enjoying the sights and sounds of the holiday season. The little girl hears sleigh bells ringing and carols singing. She smells chestnuts roasting--CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH!--and sees the flashing lights of the department store windows--BLING! BLING! BLING! She spreads the spirit of giving wherever she goes. And when she reaches Santa, she tells him her Christmas wish--for peace and love everywhere, all the days of the year.

—Amazon

## Announcements



### Worship Service Live Streaming

The 10:00 a.m. worship service may be viewed on the following media platforms:

- Church website: [www.stjohnhuntsville.com](http://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

### Audio Listening only of the 10:00 am worship service (3 steps)

1. First, Dial.....**312-626-6799**
2. Next, dial .....**889-5387-3674**
3. Then, dial .....**090 252**

### St. John AME Bible Study Live Streaming

Conversational Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

Bible Study each Wednesday evening via ZOOM.  
ZOOM Link is sent out to the congregation on email.

### Discussion topic: Study of Job

Contact the church office for a copy of the lesson outline.

Email: [office@stjohnhuntsville.com](mailto:office@stjohnhuntsville.com)

Phone: 256-534-3265



Tithes and offerings may be submitted to the church by using  
Givelify, PayPal, CashApp@SSTJOHNHSV 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 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tithes           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offering         | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School    | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soup Kitchen     | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Payne     | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Project | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Food Box | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other            | _____  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | _____  |

# January 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1



Communion  
Element Pick-up  
10:00-12:00 noon

2

8:45 a.m.  
Church School  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
Holy Communion

3

4

5

6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study

6

Military Ministry  
Meeting  
Via ZOOM  
6:00pm-7:30pm

7

8

9

8:45 a.m.  
Church School  
10:00 a.m. Worship

10

Fitzy-Plus Meeting  
10:00 am ZOOM  
5:00 p.m.  
History Makers Ministry  
6:00 p.m.  
CPR Ministry  
ZOOM

11

12

6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study

13

14

10:00 a.m.  
Church School Book Club

15

16

8:45 a.m.  
Church School  
10:00 a.m. Worship

17

Lay Organization  
Meeting 6:00 pm  
Via ZOOM

18

11:30 a.m.-1:00  
p.m.  
SOUP KITCHEN

19

6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study

20

21

22

23

8:45 a.m.  
Church School  
10:00 a.m. Worship

24

25

11:30 a.m.-1:00  
p.m.  
SOUP KITCHEN

26

6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study

27

28

29

30

31

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021-2022

ENCOURAGING, EMPOWERING & ENABLING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*"Creativity and Imagination in the New Normal"*  
*Amich 43:18-19*

## NOVEMBER 2021

- 4-6 - Planning Meeting, Daniel Payne Plaza, Birmingham, AL (Invitation Only)  
Virtual for all others
- 20 - 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lay Convention, Virtual
- 25 - Thanksgiving Day
- 28 - First Sunday of Advent

## DECEMBER 2021

- 1 - World AIDS Day & Rosa Parks Holiday
- 4 - Rosa Parks Sunday Celebration, St. Paul, MGM
- 4 - Episcopal District, WMS 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention
- 11 - Ninth District Community Christmas Celebration
- 15 - Ninth District Virtual Christmas with the Bishop
- 25 - Christmas
- 31 - Watch Night

## JANUARY 2022

- 1 - New Year's Day
- 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 19-22 - WMS Executive Board & Training, Atlanta, GA

## FEBRUARY 2022

- 5 - District CEC Leadership Training
- 14 - Richard Allen's Birthday, Founder's Day & Valentine's Day
- 19 - Episcopal YPD Leadership Training Institute (LTI)
- 21 - Presidents' Day
- 27 - Bishop & Supervisor Seawright 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

## MARCH 2022

- 6 - Bloody Sunday, Selma Virtual
- 16 - Bishop Seawright's Birthday
- 18-19 - Sons of Allen Men of Valor Conference
- 26 - Nichols•Thomas•Grady Clergy Institute
- 31 - Ninth District Mid-Year Convocation Meeting

## APRIL 2022

- 1-2 - Ninth District Mid-Year Convention Meeting
- 10 - Palm Sunday
- 10-16 - Holy Week
- 15 - Good Friday
- 17 - Easter

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021-2022

ENCOURAGING, EMPOWERING & ENABLING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*"Creativity and Imagination in the New Normal"*  
*January 2018-19*

## MAY 2022

6 – National Day of Prayer  
8 – Mother's Day  
21 – Nichols•Thomas•Grady Clergy Institute  
31 – Memorial Day

## JUNE 2022

5 – Pentecost Scattered, A Day of Witnessing  
19 – Father's Day

## JULY 2022

4 – Independence Day  
14 – Ninth District CEC  
16 – Nichols•Thomas•Grady Clergy Institute  
19 – Supervisor Sherita's Birthday

## AUGUST 2022

20 – ARR WMS & YPD Annual Conference  
24-26 – ARR Annual Conference

## SEPTEMBER 2022

3 – NW WMS & YPD Annual Conference  
5 – Labor Day  
7-9 – NW Annual Conference  
17 – NE WMS & YPD Annual Conference  
21-23 – NE Annual Conference

## OCTOBER 2022

1 – SE WMS & YPD Annual Conference  
5-7 – SE Annual Conference  
15 – SW WMS & YPD Annual Conference  
19-21 – SW Annual Conference

\* Next Planning Meeting Date is November 3 – 5, 2022

\*\* All dates are subject to change.

# 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## **13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Alabama River Region Annual Conference**

August 20 - WMS & YPD Annual Conference

**August 24 - 26, 2022**

**Brown Chapel AME Church - Selma**

Reverend Leodis Strong, Host Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson, Host Presiding Elder

## **13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Northwest Alabama Annual Conference**

September 3 - WMS & YPD Annual Conference

**September 7 - 9, 2022**

**DANIEL PAYNE COMMUNITY PLAZA**

1500 Daniel Payne Drive, Birmingham, AL 35214

Host Pastor & Host Presiding Elder (To Be Announced)

## **13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Northeast Alabama Annual Conference**

September 17 - WMS & YPD Annual Conference

**September 21 - 23, 2022**

**St. John AME Church - Ft. Mitchell**

Reverend Samuel Smith, Host Pastor

Reverend Johnny Rutledge, Host Presiding Elder

## **13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Southeast Alabama Annual Conference**

October 1 - WMS & YPD Annual Conference

**October 5 - 7, 2022**

**Johns Chapel AME Church - Enterprise**

Reverend Willie White, Host Pastor

Rev. Dr. W. Eugene Marshall, Host Presiding Elder

## **13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference**

October 15 - WMS & YPD Annual Conference

**October 19 - 21, 2022**

**St. John AME Church - Kushla**

Reverend Benjamin Lightner

Rev. Johnnie Bryant, Host Presiding Elder

## **2022 Planning Meeting**

**November 3 - 5, 2022**

**DANIEL PAYNE COMMUNITY PLAZA**

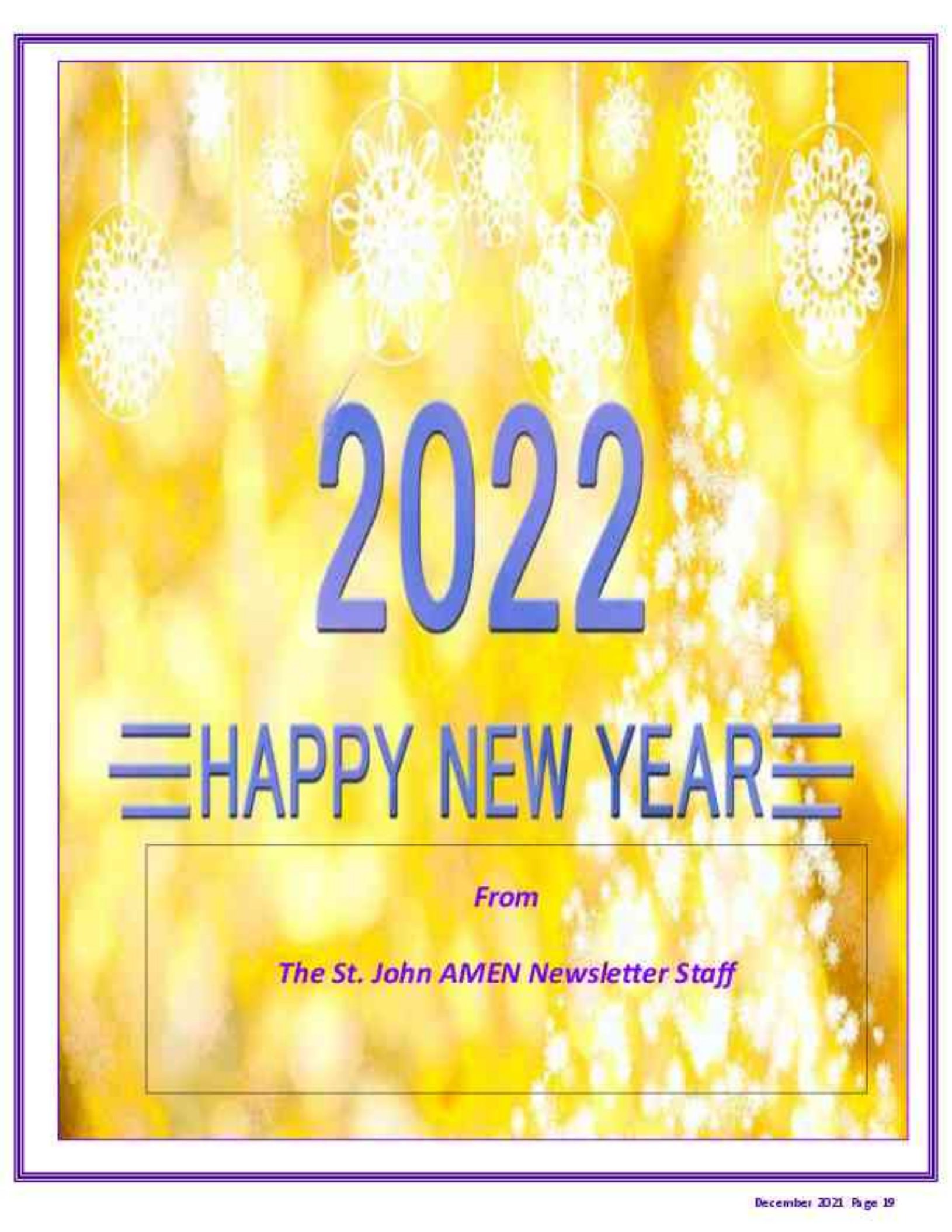
1500 Daniel Payne Drive, Birmingham, AL 35214

## **Ninth Episcopal District Office**

1500 Daniel Payne Drive | Birmingham, AL 35214 205.326.4499

(Office) • 205.326.4434 (Fax)

[www.ninthamechurch.org](http://www.ninthamechurch.org)



# 2022

## ≡HAPPY NEW YEAR≡

*From*

*The St. John AMEN Newsletter Staff*

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

Return Service Requested

E-mail: [office@stjohnhuntsville.com](mailto:office@stjohnhuntsville.com)  
Website: [www.stjohnhuntsville.com](http://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



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*