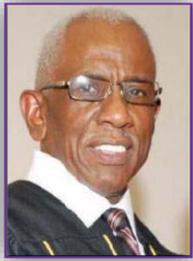


THE LIGHT

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
Matthew 5:16 (KJV)



ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH
Empowering Disciples for Christ, Changing Lives All Time
Spring 2014 Edition
(Feb.-Jun)



Pastor's Corner

God's Grace and Favor

My brothers and my sisters I greet you in the precious Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate the launching of the new St John newsletter, "*The Light*" it has given me an opportunity to stop and reflect on what God has done for us and through us since we started this journey over three years ago. In fact, it was February 06th 2011 when I preached my first sermon at St John at the old Alfred Street location. The title of the message was "Second Chance" it centered on the fact that God had granted each of us a second chance to serve him in the manner that was worthy of His status as Creator, Lord and Savior of this entire universe. It was further stated that those that comprised the initial St John congregation were not left behind; they were plucked out by God for a special assignment. We did not know what the assignment was at the time nor could we have imagined where God would have us today, **but God!** When I preached that first sermon at St John, I had no idea that I would become Pastor. I thought I was just there to complete a brief preaching assignment, but God had other plans for me and my family. We started this journey with about fifteen (15) members and through God's Grace and Mercy He has added to the church daily and we now have 145 members of the St John family.

For whatever reason, God has truly favored St John; His Grace toward us has been beyond measure even though we don't deserve anything of Him. Throughout our journey the Spirit of God has guided our path and by His mercy He has provided us with all the necessities we have needed for every task God has called us to take on. When we had no home He open the hearts of the city to ensure we had a place of worship that would accommodate our membership. When we outgrew one location within the city God moved us to another location and continued to pour out blessings toward us even while we were yet in sin. Who would not serve a God like this?

When God decided that we required a more permanent home to worship and to be able to take on greater responsibilities toward His Kingdom, He moved us to our current facility off Fordson Road. God truly exceeded our expectation and gave us abundantly above anything we could have imagined possible. There has been no need that God has not fulfilled for St John! We can never thank God enough for His daily care and provisions that He continues to provide us. He has not only shown His grace, mercy and favor toward the body of St John, He has showered mercy and favor to the membership as well. We understand that all that we have and all that we will ever have comes from the Lord, the creator of Heaven and earth.

God has placed a Call on St John to be a **Light** on the hill, which never goes out, while standing firm on the truth, so that others might see our light and come in out of the darkness.

Somebody say Jesus!

Charles A. Hall, Pastor
St John Baptist Church

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St. John Newsletter Committee

- Lori Hall
- Berlina Smith
- Deaconess Alice Fleming, Administrative Ministry Chair

Photo credit for this issue:
Trustee Richard Diggs, Deaconess Alice Fleming, Sis. Lori Hall, Bro. Charles Wormely

In Memory of Sis. Evangerline Thompson | June 10, 1923 – May 26, 2014



Sister Evangerline Thomas, born June 10, 1923 to the late Forest & Lula Rippey of Shelby, NC, was the seventh of eight children. Sis. Evangerline and passed away May 26, 2014 at her home in Alexandria, VA. She has 5 children, Shirley, Doris, Claude Jr., Jimmy, Jeanette and later adopted daughter Mabel. Always humble, Sister Evangerline did not care about the fast pace of the changing world around her. Rather, she cherished the simple and basic things in life. Anyone who knew her knew she loved her family and had a special place in her heart for her grandsons (Petey, Poochie, Wormley, and Anthony) or “the boys” as she called them. Sister Evangerline was infamous for purporting that she had 150 grandchildren. She was a faithful member and mother of St. John Baptist Church. Her spirit and love for the Lord blessed her to experience over 90 years of age. She was just two weeks shy of her 91st birthday. Sis. Evangerline will be truly missed by her St. John family.

St. John on the Move...Welcome to our new campus!



On January 1, 2014 the St. John Baptist Church Trustee’s signed the lease to the churches new worship facility. Pastor Hall announced at the end of the 2013 Watch Night Service that the church would be relocating to the historical site which formerly housed Woodlawn Methodist Church located at 7730 Fordson Rd in the Gum Springs area of Alexandria, Virginia. Pastor Hall always remarked how God had revealed to him years earlier that he would be ministering in a church off of Route 1 in Alexandria. On Sunday, February 2, 2014 that revelation became a reality and the congregation



held its first worship service in the new facility. The new St. John Baptist Church campus sits less than one block off of Route 1 in Alexandria. **Somebody Say Jesus!!**



Bethlehem Baptist Church Welcomes SJBC to the Neighborhood

On Sunday, February 9th Pastor Darrell K. White, and the Officers of Bethlehem Baptist Church presents Pastor Hall and the SJBC family with a plant to welcome us to the area. Pastor Hall planted the tree in the front lawn of the church.

Pastor Hall 65th Birthday Celebration



The SJBC family honored Pastor Hall with a surprise birthday celebration on March 13th. The fellowship hall was filled to capacity with family members, longtime friends and the SJBC congregation.



The ministers of Tabernacle Baptist Church Pray for Pastor Hall during his birthday celebration

St. John Celebrates 88 years



Rev. Luther Bailey brings forth
The Word.

The St. John Baptist Church family celebrated the 88th Anniversary of the church during the morning worship service on Sunday, March 16th. Rev. Dr. Luther Bailey, Sr. Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Lorton, VA was the guest preacher. This year's theme was "We're Launching out into the Deep" Luke 5:4 (KJV). Following the morning service the congregation and guests dined on a delicious feast prepared by the SJBC Culinary Committee.

SJBC Salutes Pastor Hall on Two Years of Service

On December 11, 2011, God called, anointed and appointed Minister Charles A. Hall to be the shepherd of SJBC; He was officially installed on Sunday, March 25, 2012. The SJBC family paid tribute to Pastor Hall and First Lady Ruby on Sunday, March 16th during an afternoon service. Rev. Frank R. Kelly, Sr., senior pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA was the guest preacher and Rev. Anthony T. Oliver, senior pastor of Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA served as the worship leader.



First Lady Ruby Honored



The SJBC Deaconess honored First Lady Ruby with a surprise luncheon on Saturday, May 3rd in the church fellowship hall. Almost 100 women were in attendance for this special event as First Lady Erlinda Wheeler (Tabernacle Baptist Church) First Lady Jaffe White (Bethlehem Baptist Church) First Lady Christine Lewis (Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church) and First Lady Ethel Cross (Hearts Delight Baptist Church) offered Pearls of Wisdom and Words of Encouragement.

First Lady Ruby was honored in song by the Cook Family Trio, First Lady 1st cousin, Sis. Pauline Burton, and longtime family friend, Sis. Callie Terrell. There were expressions of love and reflections from her daughter, NyKia Hall, niece, Maria Worthy, her sister-in-law, Deborah Hall Thomas and sister in Christ, Stephanie Johnson.



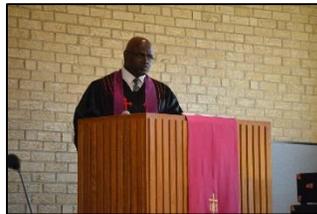
A few Mt Jezreelite friends of
First Lady Ruby

Spring Revival Recap

SJBC kicked off its Spring revival on Wednesday, May 7th with Rev. Anthony T. Oliver, Pastor, Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church. Followed by Rev. Lyle Morton, Pastor, Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church on May 8th. Rev. Jeffery Wheeler, Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church closed out the revival with a bang on Friday May 9th. The revival theme was "We Serve a God of Second Chances"



Rev. Anthony T. Oliver



Rev. Lyle Morton



Rev. Jeffery Wheeler

Married Couples Ministry Launch... "Couples in Covenant"

On May 16th Pastor Hall and First Lady Ruby launched the SJBC Couples in Covenant Marriage Ministry. The guest Preacher and teachers for the hour were Rev. Nelson Sneed and First Lady Sara Sneed of Little Forest Baptist Church in Stafford, VA. Eighteen married couples from SJBC were treated to an evening of dinner, fun and fellowship. The SJBC Culinary Ministry went above and beyond the call of duty as they served the couples a delicious fare which included light hors d'oeuvres, baked salmon and chicken breast, wild rice, steamed broccoli and assorted desserts.



Pastor and First Lady Hall
&
Rev. & First Lady Sneed



SJBC Men Fellowship during Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Ministry joined together on May 10th for a morning of food and fellowship. Minister Clyde Casey, Martin Luther King Baptist Church, Reston, VA was the guest speaker.



Pastor Hall and Minister Terrell join the SJBC Men's Choir in a song during the breakfast.

SJBC Women's Ministry Gather for Prayer Breakfast



On Saturday, June 28th, First Lady Ruby hosted the Women's Ministry 1st Prayer Breakfast of the year in the church fellowship hall. The women of St. John were treated to a morning of food and fellowship. And once again the SJBC Culinary Ministry went above and beyond preparing a delicious meal for the attendees. Deaconess Susan Stewart served as the worship leader for the event.

Easter Sunday at St. John



The SJBC Children's Ministry made its first Easter debut with a brief performance during the morning worship services. The children of all age groups recited the Seven Last Sayings and other well-known scriptures from the Kings James Bible. The Children's Ministry hosted a small reception in the fellowship hall after services for the children and congregation.



SJBC Nurses Ministry Dedicated

On Sunday May 25th, Pastor Hall presided over the SJBC Nurses Ministry dedication. The seven members of the Nurses Ministry will provide care and assistance as needed during worship services and accompany Pastor Hall during outside preaching engagement.



Deacon Stewart prays with
Nurse's before the dedication.

Members of the Nurse's Ministry (from left to right): Sis. Doris Brown, Sis. Mary Lucas, Sis. NyKia Hall, Sis. Margaret Washington, Sis. Mary Holmes, Sis. Terreka King and Trustee Ruth Siebert. Deacon Stewart prays with the Nurse's Ministry before the dedication.

For Your Health

Don't Take Arthritis Lying Down

Years ago, doctors hardly ever told rheumatoid arthritis patients to "go take a hike" or "go for a swim." Arthritis was considered an inherent part of the aging process and a signal to a patient that it's time to slow down. But not so anymore. Through the grace of God recent research and clinical findings show that there is much more to life for arthritis patients than the traditional recommendation of bed rest and drug therapy.

Rheumatoid arthritis causes pain, swelling, stiffness, and loss of function in the joints. Several features distinguish it from other kinds of arthritis:

- Tender, warm, and swollen joints.
- Fatigue, sometimes fever, and a general sense of not feeling well.
- Pain and stiffness lasts for more than 30 minutes after a long rest.
- The condition is symmetrical. If one hand is affected, the other one is, too.
- The wrist and finger joints closest to the hand are most frequently affected. Neck, shoulder, elbow, hip, knee, ankle, and feet joints can also be affected.
- The disease can last for years and can affect other parts of the body, not only the joints.²

Should Arthritis Patients Exercise?

Exercise is critical in successful arthritis management. It helps maintain healthy and strong muscles, joint mobility, flexibility, endurance, and helps control weight. Rest, on the other hand, helps to decrease active joint inflammation, pain, and fatigue. For best results, arthritis patients need a good balance between the two: more rest during the active phase of arthritis, and more exercise during remission. During acute systematic flares or local joint flares, patients should put joints gently through their full range of motion once a day, with periods of rest. To see how much rest is best during flares, patients should talk to their health care providers.

The following exercises are most frequently recommended for patients with arthritis:*

Type of Exercise	Benefits	Frequency of Exercise
Range-of-motion exercises, e.g. stretching and dance	Help maintain normal joint movement and increase joint flexibility.	Can be done daily and should be done at least every other day.
Strengthening exercises, e.g. weight lifting	Help improve muscle strength, which is important to support and protect joints affected by arthritis.	Should be done every other day, unless pain and swelling are severe.
Aerobic or endurance exercises, e.g. walking, bicycle riding, and swimming	Help improve the cardiovascular system and muscle tone and control weight. Swimming is especially valuable because of its minimal risk of stress injuries and low impact on the body.	Should be done for 20 to 30 minutes three times a week unless pain and swelling are severe.

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Healthy Eating Tip: Include whole grains in your diet

Aim to make at least half your grains whole grains. Look for the words "100% whole grain" or "100% whole wheat" on the food label. Whole grains provide more nutrients, like fiber, than refined grains.





Growing Deeper in God's Word

To flourish in all areas of your life, you have to *want* to be successful. You must desire more for every area of your life—especially spiritually. And that involves a willingness to obey God's plan and principles. The Lord will satisfy the heart that is hungry for Him and His will. This quarter's featured book of the bible is **Habakkuk**.

1. What was Habakkuk's first complaint? How did God answer his complaint?
2. What was Habakkuk's second complaint? What was God's response to that complaint?
3. What was Habakkuk's prayer?
4. How does this book of the bible relate to life and the world today?

NOTES:

WELCOME TO THE ST. JOHN FAMILY

January 2014

- Bro. Andrew Sellers
- Bro. Jerry Chambers
- Sis. Sandra O'Neill
- Sis. Kathy Philyaw

February 2014

- Sis. Tracey Pope

March 2014

- Sis. Shirley Jackson
- Bro. Charles Jones
- Sis. Marie Jones
- Bro. Kirkland Sprattley

April 2014

- Sis. Darlene Carr Greene

May 2014

- Sis. Cynthia Farmer

Regular Church-wide Events

Every other Tuesday 12 noon
Seasoned Saints Mid-day Bible Study

Every Wednesday 12 noon
Conference Prayer Line
Call: 1-712-832-1500
Passcode: 685163#

Every Thursday 6:30 PM
Intercessory Prayer and Bible Study

Every Sunday 10:00 AM
Worship Service

1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday 10:00 AM
Children's Church

COMING SOON...
October 25th
SJBC Picnic and Community Day

October 31st
Church Movie Night

November 9th
Servants Day

December 31, 2014
Watch Night Service

St. John Baptist Church
7730 Fordson Rd| Alexandria, Virginia 22306
(703) 619-2900 | www.sjbc3.org | Email: sjbcva@aol.com

Pastor Charles A. Hall, Senior Pastor