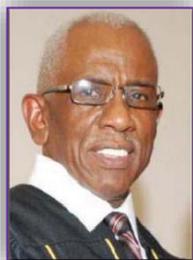


THE LIGHT

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, One Another and the World
Summer/Fall 2014
Edition (Jul-Oct)



Pastor's Corner

Allowing the Light of God to Shine

Greetings to all in the precious name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

As reflected in our first newsletter, God has bestowed an abundant amount of grace, mercy and favor toward the body of St John. We are all aware that we have not done anything to earn nor deserve the blessings and favor we are enjoying during this phase of our life's journey. In return, God does not require anything of us except that we love him and that we do our best to keep His commandments.

Loving God and keeping His commandments is what will set us apart from those in the world who have not yet surrendered their life to God. Loving God and working to keep His commandments will allow the glow of the Lord to shine through and from us as we worship, fellowship together and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those in our local communities as well as those beyond our local borders.

*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39*

This is not a new assignment for St John, 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. What this means is that we as a body must stand firm on the inspired breathed Word of God regardless of what others believe is right or what the world considers popular or acceptable. The call of God for St John demands that we maintain the Holy Bible as our mandatory guideline for worship and fellowship. If we are willing to make this sacrifice and commitment as a body, then the glow of the Lord will shine upon St John and others will not just see the light of God in us but will be drawn by the glow of the Lord to seek their own relationship with Him. This can be accomplished if we resist the temptations of the world and stay obedient to God's Word.

*I Beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
Romans 12:1*

In fulfilling our vision, we must remember that our final destination is not an elevation within this world but rather an eternal place of rest and reward in the Kingdom of God. God's desire is that we would all be with him one day in Heaven where He will wipe away all our tears, there will be no more death, nor pain, every day would be like Sunday, **what a time of fellowship we will have!**

Somebody say.....Jesus

Charles A. Hall, Pastor

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St. John Newsletter Committee

- Lori Hall
- Deaconess Alice Fleming, Administrative Ministry Chair

Photo credit for this issue:

Trustee Richard Diggs
Deaconess Alice Fleming
Bro. Brian Hall
Sis. Lori Hall
The Washington Post

Bro. Petey Jones Recognized in Washington Post

On October 14th, Washington Post columnist, Alex Prewitt featured a story on St. John's very own, Bro. Thomas "Petey" Jones. The article entitled "Petey Jones, immortalized in 'Remember the Titans,' still works at T.C. Williams High School" chronicles Bro.



Petey's life on and off screen and featured several breathtaking photos taken on the current T.C. Williams campus.

Bro. Petey, who played on the T.C. Williams football team made famous in the film, remains a security officer at the school today. Bro. Petey was portrayed in the movie by actor Donald Faison which also starred Denzel Washington. The movie portrayed the racial tensions created by the consolidation of Alexandria's three high schools, which brought the city's white and black football players together on a single team at T.C. Williams under an African American head coach.

The article further portrays Bro. Petey's road to salvation and his faith. The columnist writes:

In the quiet hours between bus duty and lunch, Jones parked his cart out back and opened his Bible, a Christmas present from his daughter covered by football leather. "Witness NFL," read the label, which stood for "New Found Life."

Book resting on the steering wheel, Jones put on his glasses and turned to Proverbs 17. He called a friend, the woman who had bought the cross he wore around his neck. "Good morning," he said. "You got your Bible open?"

He read the verses, two at a time, and she read hers back to compare. It was a Wednesday, which meant Jones also had a noontime prayer call with his church. "Brother Petey," is how they knew him at Saint John Baptist, which Jones joined several years ago.

He was driven there by a string of legal issues and, subsequently, the nagging desire to become a better role model, not only for his three children — Keisha, Crystal and Marcus — but for the moviegoers and speech-listeners, who had an image of a man he hoped not to betray.

It was the life of obedience he needed. The life which helped him through a prostate cancer scare in 2012. The life which made his speeches seem truer, his meetings with fans more meaningful. The life which halted work in the middle of the day so he could read scripture over the telephone as passing students stared into the cart.

"Amen," Jones said. He closed the Bible. "That's good stuff. I'm going to read over it again later."

To read the article in its entirety, Article: <http://huff.to/1w58hkE>

Congratulations Sis. Washington

August 15th marked the last day of employment for **Sis. Marjorie "Midge" Washington**. Sis. Washington was employed with the City of Alexandria Recreation Dept. for over 25 years and over 30 years with the City of Alexandria Public schools. In recognition of this milestone Pastor Hall presented Sis. Washington with roses during the September 28th morning service. In addition to holding down two jobs with the city God blessed Sis. Washington to be a loving and spirit-filled mother and grandmother while also serving on the Usher and Nurses ministries here at St. John. May God continue to bless Sis. Washington as she continues to serve the Lord.



SJBC Sponsors Vacation Bible School (VBS) in Haiti

Being led by the Holy Spirit and the Power of God, St John Baptist Church working in partnership with Second Chance Ministry and a Baptist Church in Trinidad partnered to conduct a weeklong Vacation Bible School (VBS) in Haiti. The VBS was held at Emmanuel Baptist Church Desroulin Port de Paix, Haiti, under the leadership of Pastor Wisly Bregis. Emmanuel Baptist is the church that the Lord used St John and Second Chance Ministry to help construct in April 2012.



The favor of the Lord was upon this VBS; God opened up a window and truly poured our His blessings. The week-long VBS attracted more than 100 kids each of the seven days. The support provided allowed for the serving of 2 meals per day to each child. **What a blessing from God!** A special thanks to Sister Cheryl Dela Rosa from Trinidad who traveled to Haiti to lead the effort. We look forward to our continued support of God's work in 2015.

Somebody say.....Jesus

St. John Children's Ministry hosted VBS 2014 July 14-18

This year's theme was "Gangway to Galilee" Amazing Grace Adventure

There were 75 registrants ages 3- 15 years old, with a daily attendance of 25-28 participation per night (children). We also had many volunteers and church members that enjoyed setting sail with children as they traveled around the Sea side of Galilee as Jesus taught his ministry unto 5 lessons. Along with singing, crafts, snacks and games which was all inclusive in the Gangway curriculum.

- Jesus calls me- the sea side bible story was "Jesus calls his disciples to follow him. Jesus chose ordinary, sinful men.
- Jesus teaches from the boat
- Jesus keeps me safe
- Jesus saves me – Jesus walks on water
- Jesus provides all I need – "Jesus appears to seven disciples"

Children Ministry staff; Charles Hall (Pastor), Stephanie Johnson (Ministry Leader), Angela Contee, NyKia Hall, Deborah Harrod, Wanda Martin, Kathy Philyaw and Angel Washington.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their prayers, time and support. Special thanks to Sharron Fox and Tiffini Woody-Pope our sisters in Christ.



Let's Move Together

The SJBC Women's Ministry launched "Let's Move Together" walking campaign. Let's Move is designed to rebuild the temple of God together through proper fitness and nutrition. The Ministry held two sessions; Saturday morning walkers walked approximately 6-miles roundtrip across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge from Route 1 in Virginia onto the National Harbor property in Maryland. Session 2 was held on Wednesday's evening, starting from the SJBC campus to around Mt. Vernon Hospital. The Wednesday session was about 3 miles round trip. This year's participants were, Trustee William Mayfield, Deaconess Hope Mayfield, Xavier Mayfield Bishop, and Sis. Renee Jackson, Sis. Lori Hall, and Sis. NyKia Hall. The ministry hopes to triple the participation in 2015.



SJBC Members Learn Sign Language

On August 4th several SJBC members gathered for a 6-week sign language class in the Overflow Sanctuary. The class was taught by Sis. Ruby Osia, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. The participants learned basic sign language which included the alphabets, numbers, and several books of the bible, some traditional Christian songs and basic spiritual conversation. The class ended on September 15th with a small graduation ceremony in the SJBC Fellowship Hall.



SJBC Seasoned Saints Kickoff Mid-day Bible Study

Pastor Hall launched the first mid-day Bible Study for the Seasoned Saints on Tuesday, August 19th. Deacon Vincent Stewart led the class speaking on the topic "Need bible lesson" The Seasoned Saints continued the fellowship by breaking bread together in the Fellowship Hall. The Seasoned Saints will meet every other Tuesday at 12 noon. All members are welcome to join the Seasoned Saints and transportation is provided for those in need. See Bro. Charles Jones to schedule a ride.



Married Couples Ministry Movie Night



Pastor and First Lady Hall hosted several SJBC married couples for pizza and movie night. After dinner the couples convened in the Overflow Sanctuary to watch the movie "Fireproof." "Fireproof" is faith-based film that is mostly a drama with some humor sprinkled throughout. The characters in the movie are ordinary people with commonplace problems. "Fireproof" is a must-see for everyone who is married or considering marriage. The movie is a ministry within itself.

Six SJBC Members Baptized in August

On August 28th six new SJBC members were extended the right-hand of fellowship immediately after baptism services which were held at Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church located in Alexandria, VA where Rev. Anthony Oliver is the Senior Pastor.

Baptism participants (top row): Bro. Spencer Polite, Little Miss Mary Polite, and Sis. Pamela Polite. Bottom row: Bro. Brian Hall, Bro. Michael Tomoa, Sis. Elaine Glimph along with Pastor Hall and Minister Contee.



Seasoned Saints Annual Apple Orchard Trip



Eighteen Seasoned Saints, along with Pastor and First Lady Hall, Trustee Diggs and Bro. Charles Jones travelled to Winchester, VA for the Seasoned Saints annual apple orchard excursion on September 16th. The annual trip is always filled with fun and great fellowship.

SJBC Evening Service Kickoff..."What is Your Issue"

What is your issue, asked Minister Donald Easley the guest preacher for the first SJBC evening service which was launched on Sunday, September 21st at SJBC. Minister Easley a longtime brother in Christ of Pastor Hall is a minister at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA and devoted husband and proud father of nine beautiful children. During the evening service, Minister Easley spoke openly about his own personal issues that he and his wife endured in the past years and how they related to the woman with the issue of blood in Luke 8:43-48 (KJV). Minister Easley heart-felt story of faith and hope was truly a blessing to the SJBC members who were in attendance. Evening services will continue every third Sunday of the month at 6:00 PM in the main sanctuary.



SJBC Picnic and Community Day



The SJBC Men and Women's ministry hosts the first annual Community Day in conjunction with the church's annual picnic on Saturday, October 25th at the SJBC campus. The SJBC men prepared a delectable feast for the event which included fried fish, hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken and all the fixings. One of the major components of the community day event was the clothes give-a-way coordinated by the SJBC Women's Ministry. The SJBC campus was filled with both current and former SJBC members, members from Ebenezer Baptist Church, Macedonia Baptist Church, Providence St. John, Shiloh, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Touch Heart Christian Center, and Woodlawn Faith as well as many residents from the immediate Gum Springs community. The day was filled love, laughter, great food, song, praise and fellowship.



Church Movie Night



Several members of the SJBC family joined Pastor and First Lady Hall for the first church-wide movie night on the SJBC campus, Friday, October 31st. Members enjoyed an evening of food, fun and fellowship while watching the 2010 Christian drama film “*Grace Card*” which stars Louis Gossett, Jr. The movie illustrates the everyday opportunities that people have to rebuild relationships and heal deep wounds by extending and receiving God’s grace. Movie night at SJBC was truly a special treat for all who attended.

Surviving the Holidays

FOR THE SOUL

Get Through the Holiday Blues: For some the holidays aren’t a joyous occasion. This time of year can bring stress and feelings of loneliness. If you’re one of those people, here are a few tips that can help you weather the holiday season and bring joy and peace into your life. Focus on positive relationships. Align yourself with other Christians who are growing in Christ and can be a positive support system in your life. Doing things that you find rewarding can help with depression, but the most importantly stay in prayer and get closer to God by studying His Word and understanding His will for your life.

Give the Gift of Service: Sometimes the greatest gift you can give to others is service. Studies show that reading to a child just three hours a week significantly improves his or her reading skills. If you help out at a local soup kitchen or food bank, you are directly providing meals to hungry individuals. Spending time with the elderly can be a huge benefit for you and them. Find volunteer opportunities in your area, or create your own and recruit others.

Rebuild Relationships: Use the holiday’s as a time to reconnect with distant family members and loved ones. Asking for forgiveness can seem like a tough task, but the rewards can be bountiful. When you commit to make amends, acknowledge your actions, ask for forgiveness and move on. Don’t try to point blame at the other person or make excuses. What does the Bible say about forgiveness? Here are a few passages that cover forgiveness: *James 5:16, 1 John 1:9, Ephesians 4:32, Matthew 5:23-24, and Matthew 6:14.*

FOOD AND EXERCISE

Keep Food Safe: Holiday buffets are convenient ways to entertain a crowd, but leaving food out for long periods of time can invite bacteria that cause foodborne illness. To keep your holiday foods safe, cook them thoroughly; use shallow containers; never leave them sitting out for more than two hours; and keep them at the appropriate temperature.

Pay Attention to Food Portions and Exercise: The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate with family and friends, but celebrations sometimes involve over-indulging in sweet treats and heavy foods. Even if you only gain one or two pounds during the holidays, these gains can add up over the years. The holidays are probably not the ideal time to try to lose weight, but you can take steps to maintain your weight. Enjoy your food, but eat less and make exercise and physical activity a regular part of your day.



Do you have an idea?

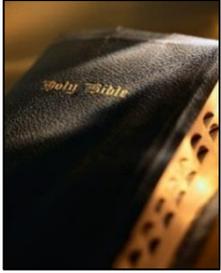
The newsletter committee wants to hear from the SJBC members. If you have suggestions for items you would like to see in the newsletter, let us know. Contact a member of the Newsletter committee after Sunday church services, after Thursday bible study or send an email to SJBCLight@aol.com

Welcome New Bundle of Joy

Congratulations to Bro. Hasheem and Sis. Shalonda Askew on the birth of their daughter Anbrey Ann Askew, born September 18th

Congratulations Sis. Angel Washington on the birth of a baby boy, A’kari Lee Washington, born on October 15th





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 **Mark 1:1-45**

1. Who did John come to prepare a way for?
2. What two amazing things happened when Jesus was baptized?
3. How many days was Jesus tempted by Satan in the wilderness?
4. What amazed the multitudes about Jesus?
5. How did Jesus expel the demon?
6. What purpose did Jesus' miracles serve?
7. Jesus arose early in the morning for what purpose?
8. After Jesus spoke, how long was it until the leprosy was healed?
9. What result occurred because the leper disobeyed Jesus' orders?
10. How does this book of the bible relate to your life today?

NOTES:

WELCOME TO THE ST. JOHN FAMILY

July 2014

- Bro. Michael Tomoa

August 2014

- Bro. Brian Hall
- Bro. Spencer Polite
- Sis. Pamela Polite
- Little Miss Mary Polite
- Sis. Anyia Alexander
- Sis. Elaine Glnph
- Sis. Wanda McKinney
- Bro. Neico Mills

September 2014

- N/A

October 2014

- Mary Brown
- Valerie Adkins

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...

November 9th

Servant Leader's Day

November 16th

Evening Worship Service

November 25th

Joint Thanksgiving Service
(Bethlehem, Harvest Assembly, Mt. Calvary,
St. John & Woodlawn Faith)

December 31, 2014

Watch Night Service

July 13-17, 2015

Children's Ministry hosts VBS Camp

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Charles A. Hall, Pastor