

The Jabez Report

Greater Saint John Cathedral

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Bishop Kevin V. Gresham Sr.
Senior Pastor/Teacher

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Articles for inclusion in the **Winter Edition 2022** issue are due by **November 27, 2022**. If you have an article to contribute; business advertisement; testimony or have reached a milestone in your life; i.e., retirement; birth of a child; graduations or other accomplishments, please forward this information to: thejabez_report@saintjohn.net.



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A Message from our Bishop

Bishop Kevin V. Gresham Sr.

Employment - Jobs and Careers

3 John 1:2 (NKJV) – Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

While preaching at Shiloh Christian Community Church on August 14, 2022, the Lord stopped me in the middle of my delivery and said “pray for jobs.” While preaching, I asked the Lord, “right now” and He said “right now, because I am anointing you to be the conduit of jobs.” I did exactly what the Lord commanded of me. The rest is history and people received jobs.

While announcing this during our initial Prayer, Praise and Study (PPS), I received a call, that during that same time one of our Disciples not only received an increase of 25% (which is exactly what we have been praying), it was approximately 40%. Since then, similar calls have been received. Now it is time to release the anointing openly.

Know and believe this, the Lord Jesus wants, desires and expects us to prosper. The question is “do you want, desire and expect yourself to prosper?”

Therefore, allow me to announce to your spirit that

1. We will see an advancement in our health.
2. We will see an advancement in our spirits.
3. We will see an advancement in our employment, jobs and careers.



Trust In God

By Sister Sylvia Tyson

Psalm 27:14 Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord.

Sometimes life is really hard. Things don't go the way we plan and it feels like we are stuck in this big dark hole with no way out. It's during these tough times that we have to learn to trust God. We have to put our faith in Him and believe that He is going to bring us through whatever we are going through.

He will give us the strength we need to get through whatever we are facing. Let's also remember to keep praying. Prayer is one of the most powerful things we can do. It opens up the lines of communication with God and lets Him know that we need His help.

So, let's pray for strength and courage when life gets tough and trust that God will see us through.

Dear God, Thank you for being our strength in times of trouble. Thank you for being a present help in times of need. We know that we can always trust you. Lord, we know that sometimes life is really hard. Things don't go the way we plan and it feels like we are stuck in this big dark hole with no way out. Help us to trust you during those tough times. Help us to put our faith in you and believe that you are going to bring us through whatever we are going through. So, when things are tough, help us to remember to wait on you. Give us the strength we need to get through whatever we are facing. Help us to keep praying. Amen

Prayer is one of the most powerful things we can do. It opens up the lines of communication with you and lets you know that we need your help. So, we pray for strength and courage when life gets tough and we trust that you will see us through.

Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. When we trust in God, we can have hope even in the roughest of circumstances. We know that He is with us always, and He will never leave us alone. God is our comfort and strength, especially when we feel like we can't go on.

Thank you for being a faithful God who always keeps His promises.

GOD'S WILL IN UNCERTAINTY

By Minister Angela Stanton

It's safe to say that the questions I'm most frequently asked as a Minister, particularly during this season, involve the issue of God's Will. People often ask, "How do I know what the Lord wants me to do with my life?" or "When I have two options, how can I know which way the Father wants me to go?" I've also found that never are Believers more concerned about God's Will than during times of waiting—when we desperately want to know what He's up to and whether He'll answer our prayers.

King David was able to endure through all his adversity because he understood that it was the Lord's plan for him to be King of Israel (*1 Sam. 16:1-13*). Abraham was able to be patient because the Father had promised he'd have many descendants and become a great nation (*Gen. 12:2*). Though I'm sure the delays were extremely difficult for these two men, they could hold on to the Lord's assurances about their eventual blessings. Unfortunately, the long intervals of anxious anticipation can be even more challenging when you're not really sure where God's taking you or what He's planned for your life.

Perhaps the issue of God's Will has been heavy on your heart. You know His plans for you are good, but what are they? Do they really include the fulfillment of your dearest hopes and dreams? Is there any way you can be certain?

Family, please be assured the Father wants you to know His Will for your life. In fact, I wholeheartedly believe that if you genuinely desire to follow Him, He'll move Heaven and earth to show you His Will. How can I say this for certain? In order for you to accomplish the good goals God's designed for you to achieve, you must know what He's called you to be and do (*Eph. 2:10*).

Think about it. If you had a son and you wanted him to help with the dishes, would you wait for him to figure out what to do on his own? Of course you wouldn't. You'd teach your son how to properly wash dishes. Then you'd express your expectations about how often you'd like for him to do so. You'd direct him carefully. If he forgot your instructions, you'd be sure to remind him.

The same is true for your heavenly Father. He prepares you to do His Will, equips you to carry it out, then leads you in accomplishing it. It'd be completely out of character for God to hide His plan or refuse to help you achieve it. Instead, the Lord promises, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you" (*Ps. 32:8*). The Father wants you to make the right decision. So just like a Shepherd lovingly steers a lamb who's prone to wandering, He trains you to listen to His voice, prods you, calls to you, protects you, and even disciplines you in order to lead you in the way you should go (*John 10:2-4*).

Not only will the Father guide you, but in *Jeremiah 29:11*, He assures: "I know the plans that I have for you ... plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope." In other words, you don't have to be afraid that there's only heartbreak ahead. God's purposes for you will bring you contentment, satisfaction and success. Though you'll most likely face times of adversity—as we all do—you can be sure in those seasons that He'll "cause all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (*Rom. 8:28*). You can be especially confident in the waiting seasons of your life that God is leading you and engineering all circumstances for your ultimate benefit.



Listen – The Trees Are Talking!

By Sister Janice Shields

Listen – the trees are talking! I often think about this as I watch the transition trees go through in spring and fall. I am always amazed at God’s beauty of this transformation from beginning to end (full tree leaves to bare tree branches).

My daughter recently shared a comment she saw on Twitter last week as fall equinox arrived on September 22, 2022. She said “the trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let the dead things go!” (*Note: The comment was re-tweeted numerous times with no mention of its origin/author*).

While I don’t fully connect with the Twitter comment; however, that comment did have me reflect on my observations and perceptions of both seasons.

I believe the trees are talking to us and they are saying the following:

I am strong! In the storms of life, my branches may move from side to side and some may even break, but when my foundation is solid I will stand again.

In storms, I may look as if I’m bending or sagging! Just know that this is temporary, the sun will come out again and my branches will be revived.

I didn’t get to my full potential overnight! I am planted as a small tree, with the hope that someday I will grow big, tall and be able to withstand the test of time. Have patience, my growth and maturity take time. Sometimes it will look as if I’m not growing at all and on other times, I’ll show signs of unimaginable growth in a short period of time.

My beauty and purpose are in the eyes of the beholder! In spring, trees are full of color, fullness and purpose. They provide shade, privacy and fruit. In the fall when trees are bare, leaves have fallen and trees offer a different view. In the barren state, vision is expanded and open to see things that were blocked by full blooms. There are times when we don’t need to see everything right now and then there are times when everything is stripped away, that is when the picture becomes clear.

Finally, I believe that if we just listen and watch, seasonal transitions can be symbols of new life and change.



Now That's Love

By Deacon Gregory Battle

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 - ¹³Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. ¹⁴Let all that you do be done with love.

I don't know about you but I find encouragement in Paul's words. Too many times in my life I have tried to complicate things, even the Gospel. So I appreciate Paul making this so simple that it cannot be confused or misconstrued. He is simply encouraging and challenging the people with these two verses.

Watch - Keep an eye open; remain vigilant. As crime rates have increased lately, more and more of us have increased our security awareness. We have purchased home security systems, are more attentive in our daily commutes, avoid certain areas at night and some of us have changed our daily walking/jogging routines. Think about the word watch – it means to watch over in order to protect. God wants us to guard/protect our lives.

We must be aware that the enemy, the Devil, wants to destroy our lives. His mission is to destroy our marriages, families and relationships. He wants to damage our testimony, reputation and character. It is important for us as believers to guard ourselves. We must guard our eyes in what we see. We must guard our ears in what we hear. We must guard our mouths in what we say. We must guard our feet in where we go. Be on the lookout!

Stand fast in Faith. God wants us to place our confidence in Him, not ourselves. Stand fast is trusting in God, not wavering in our faith, but having complete confidence in a God who loves us and wants the very best for us. Too many times we say, "God, show me and I'll trust you." However, God says, "Trust Me and I'll show you."

Be brave and strong. There's no doubt we will experience fear in our lives. God wants us to place faith over fear. I can remember reading this quote: "Fear can be a speed bump, but don't let it be a stop sign." Many times in the Old Testament, God commanded Joshua to be strong. Have courage. Don't be afraid. Joshua was scared; he was afraid because in his eyes he was trying to fill the shoes of Moses. God commissioned him to succeed and lead the Israelites to the Promised Land. God wants to give us that same courage.

Do everything in love. As Paul closes with these quick encouragements, he reminds us of this final thought: Do everything in love. True love has no agenda. It is unconditional; there are no strings attached. It's always about others. I know for me how easy it is to "water down" my definition of love. I easily turn it into a casual description of my favorite things; my sports team, food or vacation spot. However, when you pause and reflect on what true love is, you will be grateful for God's amazing love which involved the ultimate sacrifice of His Only Son dying on the cross for me and you. Wow! That's love.

Response To Getting On Your Knees Before The Father



By Minister Samaria Doll

As much as we might hate to admit it, God doesn't need or want us to tell Him what He should do. He wants to hear from us, absolutely, but what brings the Lord happiness is our devotion to His plan. That means prayer, creating open lines of communication with God that serve as a dialogue. It means both speaking and listening. We can pray anytime or anywhere, but it's a huge blessing to know that we can speak to God at any moment in lives. During the good and the bad moments. Prayer knows no rules so just pray. A pure heart in communication with God's is all you need.



THE SENIOR CONNECTION

By Facilitators Min. Minnie P. Rascoe and Sister Theresa Jennings

The Senior Connection is an idea of Bishop Gresham. During the pandemic, he wanted to give seniors an opportunity to communicate with other seniors without having to leave home. We meet by phone every Thursday from 12:00pm - 1:00pm. During this time, we have praise time, scripture, opening prayer, song, devotion, words of encouragement, testimonies and closing prayer. Our seniors range from ages 55-92. Each senior is given the opportunity to participate in the program.

We have seniors calling in from New York, Georgia, Virginia, Washington DC, Greensboro NC, Windsor NC, Roseville NC and South Carolina. Sister Theresa Jennings, one of the facilitators for the Senior Connection, connected with a 90 year old senior, who resides in a health facility, and gave her the opportunity to participate with us. Her name is Mrs. Jones and she is appreciative.

The Senior Connection would like to thank each and every person who has given of their time and talent to bless our group.

The call-in number is: 1(712) 432-0190 • Access code:274522#



Let Us Pray
By Sister Isa Lee Nedd
The Senior Connection

Scripture Verses 2 Chronicles 7:14, Matthew 6:9-13 and Ephesians 3:20-21

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on Earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil...”

Father, we come to you today in the name of your Son Jesus in gratefulness for your many blessings on our lives, the lives of our families and our Country. We come to you today with a special prayer request.

Recognizing that you are aware of the gun violence in America, we thank you for your mercy in protecting us from stray bullets. We ask that you would change hearts and instill a desire for young and old men and women to be law abiding citizens.

Allow hearts to be touched by the glorious Gospel so that change will come. Allow us to be light in a darkened world so that you will be glorified in heaven, resulting in souls coming to a saving knowledge of you and your will for their lives.

Believing “Now unto him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen

We submit this prayer in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.



Prayer for Bishop Gresham and Family

By Sister Dorothy Fairweather

The Senior Connection

Heavenly Father, we come in obedience according to your Word to pray for Bishop Gresham and his family. We are in one accord and ask for forgiveness in all areas. We thank you Father for reminding us that this is our responsibility, to be done by all of us continually, as we meditate day and night (*Joshua 1:8*). Father, we praise, adore, worship, exalt and lift up your excellent holy and righteous name in the name of your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

We praise you for their gifts, callings, efforts, instrumentality, strength and equipment in the revelation of the mysteries of your Kingdom. These revelations are manifested in the truth of your Word. These words are communicated to your Disciples and others as they preach, teach, pray, counsel and incorporate other ministerial assignments and duties.

Father, we offer adoration, honor, reverence and love to you for using them to change our lives. Due to their love for You, our growth and development in our gifts and callings are enhanced, especially for the propagation of the Gospel in soundness of doctrines, fulfillment of Your perfect will for us and our families in areas that are unmentionable.

Father, we worship you in Spirit and in truth (*John 4:24*) by bowing in humility in Your divine presence. We bring psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to make melody into our hearts unto You (*Ephesians 5:19*) for the Salvation, Redemption, Revelation, Transformation and Confirmation in Your words that we have received. Also, other benefits that we have acquired from Bishop Gresham and his family.

Father, we exalt You and worship at Your holy hill for you are holy (*Psalms 99:5*). Your name is excellent and righteous. We thank you for this prayer request, we ask You for complete wellness in the Gresham Family's health and other areas.

Father, we ask for volunteers to arise and assist in the work of the Gospel. Philanthropists to support this good work. Workers to be revitalized and encouraged to continue winning souls for your Kingdom. We pray for Disciples to continue to be strengthened in their prayer life by Your power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Father, to you be all the glory in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Praying for Greater Family

By Deaconess Deborah Rice-Thomas

The Senior Connection

Our Heavenly Father Jehovah, the members of the Greater Saint John Cathedral lift up your name. We thank you for giving us this ministry and Sanctuary to praise and worship you. It not only provides an opportunity to commune with you, Lord, our communion with each other has made us a family. Jehovah-Mekadesh, sanctify the Greater Family. Consecrate us and make us holy in your sight. Set us apart so others will see that we are your children.

Lord, help us be faithful stewards of your grace that we use whatever gift you give us to serve others. We pray that our love for you extends to all who enter into this Sanctuary. Remove any biases or negativity so that, like you Lord, we welcome all who seek you. We pray that our numbers increase to overflow, so that you can say to each of us, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Lord, please strengthen our hearts to trust in you. Give us the power to rise up each day and fight against the struggles which seek to weigh us down. Bless each member of the Greater Family in our personal relationships, finances, physical and mental health and, most importantly, in our personal spiritual growth.

We know the plans you have for us are greater than anything we can imagine, so we pray that you fill us with all joy and peace in believing. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, may we abound in that hope.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Prayer for Marriages and Domestic Violence

By Sister Christine Anderson-Payne

The Senior Connection

Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Heavenly Father, I come before you to pray for marriages and domestic violence. Father, I pray for love and peace for your people and in our homes. God let the fruit of Your Spirit abound in our lives. I pray that Your “...*love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*” (**Galatians 5:22**) will strengthen and bless marriages to allow them to flourish. Please stop the abuse of domestic violence in families.

I pray that we show more of Your love, patience and kindness towards each other. Lord, Your Word in **Galatians 5:24-26** also says “*And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*”

Father I believe that Your Word is true, I believe that Your Word has power and if we listen with our hearts and trust You and the love that You have for us, we can build strong families through marriages. I pray that the abuser will learn patience and be overcome with Your love and resist the temptations of the Devil to do harm in their family. Father, I pray that you protect our families and bring peace and safety in our homes. Lord God let, the strength of Your love always be with us keeping us safe and protected in Your arms.

In Jesus name, Amen.



A Prayer for Education, Student Safety, Administration, and Parental Involvement

By Pastor Ruth Whitehead

The Senior Connection

Great are You, our Lord God of all the world. You are our Father, forever and ever. We come boldly to the throne of grace, lifting up Your Holy name. All Honor and Glory belong to You. **Revelation 1:8** “*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,*” says the Lord, “*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*” God, there’s no one like You who can give us the wisdom and knowledge to parent our children.

Therefore, our Father God, *teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; (Psalm 86:11)* as we counsel the generation before us and share with the next generation. **Hebrews 10:7** *Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book, it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.*”

God, as I pray for Education, Student Safety, Administration, and Parental Involvement, I’m reminded of three practical applications one must apply when giving these instructions. First, we must teach and show our children the importance of accountability, responsibility and respectability as we speak and walk before them daily. We must train our children to pray and seek a relationship with Jesus.

Lord, as we go from day to day, help us to be the example of the parent You have been to us. I pray that our characteristics represent the attributes of Your gentleness and administrate the love of a caring parent. Father, we realize parenting and guidance start at home first, so we pray every day for the aid of the Holy Spirit. Prayerfully, we will be tentative to His direction.

I pray this prayer in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Amen

Prayer for Gun Violence

Sister Isa Lee Nedd

The Senior Connection

Scripture Verses 2 Chronicles 7:14, Matthew 6:9-13 and Ephesians 3:20-21

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

“Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in Earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...”

Father, we come to you today, in the name of your Son Jesus, in gratefulness for your many blessings on our lives, the lives of our families and our Country. We come to you today with a special prayer request. Recognizing that you are aware of the gun violence in America, we thank you for your mercy in protecting us from stray bullets.

We ask that you would change hearts and instill a desire for young and old men and women to be law abiding citizens. Allow hearts to be touched by the glorious Gospel so that change will come. Allow us to be light in a darkened world so that you will be glorified in Heaven, resulting in souls coming to a saving knowledge of you and your will for their lives. Believing *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen”*

We submit this prayer in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Prayer for the American Government

By Minister Minnie Torrey

The Senior Connection

Our Father who art in Heaven, we give you all the glory, honor and praise for being our God. The world and all that dwells therein belongs to You, for You are worthy to be praised.

Father, we ask you to forgive us of all our debts as we forgive others. Cleanse us, wash us over again and create in us a clean heart.

We come today lifting up our American Government unto You. We boldly give thanks for the United States and its government. We pray and intercede for our President, the Representatives, Senators and Judges, police women and men, governors and mayors and for all officials in authority over us in any way. We ask that You dwell among them and pray that they will open up their hearts and ears to you for godly counsel to do what is right in your sight.

We ask that they follow godly wisdom, love dwell within them, understanding keeps them, they respect each other and be delivered from the ways of evil. Wrap your arms around these officials. Let them be men and women of God who will conduct and lead with integrity. May they be found blameless, peaceful and all wickedness be cut off from all government affairs.

Give them the strength and knowledge to make decisions, not only for themselves, but to be advocates for those in need. Remind them of their dedication to serve for the people and by the people.

In thee, Oh Lord, do we put our strength and trust in You. Your Word declares that blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. You are our Refuge and Stronghold in times of trouble no matter what government issue comes; i.e., Voting, Elections, Crime, Gun Control, Violence, Abortions or Climate Control. We declare with our mouth, we will continue to trust and have Faith in you!!

We are your people and the sheep of your pasture. We give thanks for this land and the leaders you have given us. We give thanks to You. Now, keep us and watch over us as we dwell safely in these United States of America and prosper.

We decree and declare that we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus!

We pray this prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

*Submitted By Mrs. Eleanor Jones (91 years of age)
The Senior Connection*

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
One day, I saw a sign that read "**Heaven's Grocery Store.**"
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.
I saw a host of **ANGELS**. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said; "My child, shop with care".
Everything anyone needed was in that Grocery Store,
And all you couldn't carry out, you could come back the next day for more.

First, I got some **PATIENCE**. **LOVE** was in the same row.
Further down was **UNDERSTANDING**; you need that wherever you go.
I got a bag or two of **WISDOM**, and a bag or two of **FAITH**.
I just couldn't miss **THE HOLY GHOST**, He was all over the place.
I stopped to get some **STRENGTH** and some **COURAGE**—to help me run this race.
By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed some **GRACE**.

I didn't forget **SALVATION**, for **SALVATION** was free;
so I tried to get enough of that—to save both you and me.
Then, I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
for I thought I had everything to do the **MASTER'S** will.
As I went up the aisle, I saw **PRAYER**—I just had to put that in;
for I knew when I stepped outside, I'd run right into sin!

PEACE and **JOY** were plentiful; they were last on the shelf.
SONG and **PRAISE** were hanging near—so I just helped myself.
Then I said to the **ANGEL**, "Now how much do I owe?"
He smiled and said, "Just take them wherever you go."
Again, I smiled and asked, "How much do I really owe?"
He smiled and said,
"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO."

*Minister
Karla LaShawn Austin*



Minister Karla Austin was born the eldest child and only daughter to Sharon L. Cassell. She was raised in DC and attended DC Public Schools along with her two younger brothers. Karla has always been a leader and even when not in the forefront, she was always in the background providing for and directing others.

She accepted Christ in her life at the age of 25 while attending Bethel Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Nathaniel Caldwell where she led the Pastor's Aide Ministry and sang in two choirs.

In 1998, Karla became a disciple of St. John Freewill Baptist Church on Brightseat Road, Glenarden, MD, under the leadership of Pastor Kevin V. Gresham Sr (now Bishop), where she has been serving ever since. At Saint John she has served on the Women's Ministry, Children's Ministry, multiple choirs and the Tribe of Judah Praise Team.

In 2010, she realized that God had called her to new heights which took her in a direction she had never been before – serving persons with mental health and substance abuse. She didn't understand because she knew nothing about this arena. However, she found that this has been the most rewarding experience of her life. Karla has a BSN in nursing and has multiple awards and certifications in her field. She is looking to enhance her ministry by helping people recover.

Karla has been married to Keith Austin Sr. for the past 27 years and they have three children – Keith Jr., Michael and Brittany, as well as two grandchildren – Dominic and Kourtney.

Her ultimate goal in life is to help others and know that if she can help someone, her living will not be in vain.

Her favorite scripture is **Matthew 5:16** "In the same way let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."



Minister Jerry L. Clark, Jr.

Minister Jerry L. Clark Jr. was born in Atlanta, GA, May 19, 1981 to the parents of Thelma Clark-Thomas and Jerry Clark Sr. Min. Jerry remembers praying the Lord's Prayer most nights, with his mother, as a toddler before going to bed. He learned to have good work ethics, treat everyone the same regardless of who they are and stand up for what he believes is right from his father.

Minster Jerry is a graduate of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Journeyman Electrician) and Middle Tennessee State University (Bachelor of Science Degree, Major: Construction Management). Education is very important to Minister Jerry.

He teaches as an adjunct teacher for Anne Arundel Community College and works full time as an Operation and Maintenance Supervisor.

Minster Jerry accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior in the summer of 1999 while in jail for three months. Ever since accepting Christ, Minister Jerry has had a hope and a future with thanks being to God. Minister Clark was mentored by his cousin-in-law Edgar Samuel and Pastor Robinson of Cultivation Church. God sent two men in his life to give him a hope and future. Samuel told Minister Jerry that he can be whatever he wanted to be, gave him a job and allowed him to stay with him after getting out of jail. Pastor Robinson showed Minster Jerry that the streets were not part of the equation. Pastor Robinson taught Minster Jerry how to be patient as a parent and was the example of a 2-parent house.

Minister Jerry Clark resides in Upper Marlboro, MD, and is married to Britney Clark. They have four children - Jacobe, Jayda, Benjamin and Averi) - two together. Minster Jerry enjoys fishing, working in the yard and chilling on the beach.

Minster Jerry joined Greater Saint John in 2016. Minster Jerry currently serves on the Protocol Ministry and will be joining the Evangelism Ministry which is Minster Jerry's passion and what God has called him to do "Spread the Gospel to the world.



Minister Jenelle Renee Cooper

In 2015, **Minister Jenelle Cooper** was invited to Greater Saint John Cathedral (GSJC) to attend Prayer, Praise and Study (PPS). She enjoyed it so much that she decided to return on Sunday where she witnessed the dynamic preaching and teaching of our beloved Bishop.

Four months later, she became a disciple of GSJC. Soon thereafter, she joined the Tribe of Judah Worship Team as well as the Mass Choir. God gave her the vision for a new ministry, now in its 6th year, Fresh Wind, which teaches music to teens, stewarding the next generation of worship leaders.

In 2018, she began studying for her next level of ministry. Prior to GSJC, she served on worship teams at the Ark of Safety Christian Church under the leadership of Bishop C. Anthony Muse and the Life Changing Bible Baptist Church under the leadership of Bishop Herbert H. Jackson Sr. She has been blessed to be under the tutelage of many anointed worship leaders in the DMV.

Her love for God is deeply rooted in song which has kept her from some of the darkest days of her life. In January 2019, within a 5-month period, Jenelle lost her mother, her only child, Sheldon, who was 23 years old and her closest aunt. This has shaken her to her core, but God has kept her through it all and has given her a new mantra for living – from Pain to Purpose to Passion. Jenelle is dedicated to sharing her son’s story and telling people of the dangers of opioids, particularly Fentanyl, which was found as the cause of her son’s death, after he smoked a joint that a “friend” gave him.

This winter, Jenelle will launch “Mother Forever” a ministry devoted to mothers who have lost a child. It will be on multiple social media platforms and is a space where mothers can be encouraged to show support for one another.

Jenelle works at the Smithsonian’s Anacostia Community Museum as a Community Services Coordinator, Educator and Special Events Manager. She has worked in various museums and offices and has been at the Smithsonian for 35 years.



Minister Melissa Zvette Monroe

Minister Melissa Monroe was born and raised in Washington, DC, to James Lewis Price, Sr., and Marilyn Elizabeth Johnson. She is the middle child with an older brother and a younger sister. Melissa has two wonderfully brilliant daughters, the loves of her life, Sharis Ashley-Evette (her Scientist) and Sydney Elise (her Artist).

Melissa is a firm believer that all things happen for a reason and that nothing happens by chance. She realizes that God had allowed her to go through some tough situations so that she may help others. In the past, there were times when she didn't know if she would or could make it. She didn't know if she would be able to keep it

together for herself, let alone anyone else. At her lowest point, God showed compassion for her by leading her to what she needed. What she needed was a strong church family. God reminded her that He had placed that same compassion within her, which had become dormant during that low period.

Now, compassion is back in full force! Melissa is extremely compassionate towards God's people. It doesn't matter the relationship; Melissa has a strong desire to help and as a bonus, she is a very good listener. God has called her to be a Minister of the Gospel and to counsel others. Melissa's greatest passion concerning ministry is helping to build God's Kingdom.

Melissa's Sunday morning prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that we keep the main thing, the main thing: winning souls for Christ. Lord, please allow the unsaved to find us on Old Marlboro Pike. I pray that the Holy Spirit comes in and sits with us; to indwell us. I pray for us to be on one accord and be unified. I pray we have compassion towards one another. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.



Minister Cathy Elaine Murray

Minister Cathy Murray is a native of Washington, DC, but now resides in Maryland. She has been a member of Greater Saint John Cathedral for six years.

Minister Cathy has one son (Cornelius Jonathan) and is devoted to her family, friends and church, but most of all God. She teaches an in-home Bible Study with a group of people, she is dedicated to our Women's Prayer call on Thursday and she is an educator for children with intellectual disabilities. She and her late husband started a Ministry called **WATCH - What About The Children**. This mentoring program encourages young people (middle and high school).

Minister Cathy has a passion for praying and interceding for others while watching God move on their behalf. She is a very "low key" individual; however, when she opens her mouth to speak you will find her giving a word of encouragement to brighten someone's day.

Her favorite scripture out of many is: **Romans 8:28** *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

Her motto is as follows by the late Pastor James Cleveland: "I've had my share of life's ups and downs. God's been good to me, and the downs have been few. I would guess you can say, God has blessed me, but there's never been a time in my life, he didn't bring me through... If anyone should ever write my life story for whatever reason there might be You'd be there, between each line of pain and glory... Jesus is the best thing that ever happened to me!"



Minister
Tanya Lvette Hamilton Smith

Minister Smith is a native of Washington, DC, and is the youngest daughter of the late Freddie and Edna (Kathleen) Hamilton and the proud wife of Eric T. Smith. Tanya accepted the Lord at an early age and was baptized and raised in Gethsemane Baptist Church of Washington, DC. She attended Sunday School and Church Services, many Sundays all day long, thanks to devoted parents, Aunts and Grandparents.

Tanya is immensely blessed to have had parents who loved the Lord and raised her and her two sisters in the admonition of the Lord, Grandparents Nannie and Pop, Grandma Alice, aunts and uncles. They could be seen sitting at the table or window every morning reading their Bibles, or on their knees day and night

praying. Mother Ella (who was blind) lifted her voice in praise and worship as sister-in-law Mag served as her eyes and hands. These were all gifts from God.

Tanya attended schools in Washington, DC, including Burdick Vocational (Nursing), Strayer University, Prince George's Community College and University of Maryland, University College (Accounting).

The Lord continued His Awesome wonder by allowing Tanya to marry her childhood sweetheart, Eric T. Smith on July 15, 1989. After marrying, they joined Rising Sun Baptist Church of Washington, DC, under the great leadership of the late Reverend Samuel Mitchell Jr. Reverend Mitchell (Dad) who was an invaluable influence to both Tanya and Eric, as was Mother Robertha Mitchell. They unofficially adopted Tanya and Eric into their family. In 1993, The Lord would then lead them to Saint John Free Will Baptist Church of Landover, MD, under the phenomenal leadership of Pastor Kevin V. Gresham Sr.

Tanya prayed that the Lord would lead her to a church where the word of God would pierce her heart and grant her wisdom and understanding. The Lord answered her prayers through the powerful teaching, preaching, unwavering faith and devotion of Bishop Kevin Gresham Sr. and 1st Lady Denise Gresham.

For over 40 years, Tanya has been a business owner, property owner and manager, Real Estate Agent, caregiver, power of attorney and legal guardian for parents, aunts and uncles. She aided and provided assistance to as many as Almighty God allowed her to serve.

Tanya answered the call of God on her life in December 2017 and is determined to be obedient to God's word and continue a life of service to God's people.

Tanya's favorite scriptures are **Matthew 25:35-46**, "*Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me*" and **Isaiah 55:6-13**, "*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void....*".



Minister Sharis Tonita Staton

Minister Staton was born on September 27, 1972, at Nash General Hospital in Rocky Mount, NC, to Bobby Ray Staton and Shirley Tempee Staton. Sharis is sister to Sophia and Cornelius Staton. She accepted Christ in her life at the age of 13 at Union Branch Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, NC, where James S. Tuten was pastor. Raised in the church, Sharis participated in the Church choir, on the Usher Board and every child focused program that her mother said yes to and she said yes to them all.

As a child, Sharis attended Nash County Public Schools where she excelled in athletics, receiving a full softball scholarship to Saint Augustine's College, now University, in Raleigh NC. Sharis began college as a music education major, but later changed her major to physical education and health. While

Sharis was an average student in high school, she graduated cum laude in 1995 with a teaching degree. As a student at Saint Augustine's College, Sharis noticed that there were a group of young ladies that wore red and white and were always sponsoring events that served the needs of the community. While student teaching, she met one of these young ladies and found that this group of young ladies embodied the same values and beliefs that her mother and father taught her. That group of young ladies were members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. In April 1995, Sharis proudly became a member of the Gamma Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. at St. Augustine's in Raleigh, NC.

After graduating college, Sharis quickly began her career as a teacher's assistant in her hometown of Nashville NC. With a push from her sister Sophia and the encouragement of the family, she decided to seek employment with the Montgomery County Public School System in Maryland. Sharis has been teaching 27 years and still loves it just as much as she did the first day that she walked into E. Brooke Lee Middle School, now Shannon Odessa, in August 1996. Sharis has served as teacher, Resource Teacher, softball, basketball, soccer and dance coach, SGA Sponsor, After School Coordinator and PLC Leader. She now teaches Health Education and also serves as the Health Education Leader at Montgomery Blair High School. In addition, she coaches softball and serves as Game Manager for the athletic program at Paint Branch High School in Burtonsville, MD, both in Montgomery County.

Sharis has been a member of Greater Saint John Cathedral since 2009, where she has served as President of the Gospel Chorus, Praise and Worship Leader, as well as a member of the mass choir, gospel chorus, and Tribe of Judah Praise Team. She accepted the call on her life and began ministerial training under the leadership of Bishop Kevin V. Gresham, Sr.

Sharis' favorite scripture is **Proverbs 3:5-6**, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path.*" Sharis' ultimate prayer to God is that she will consistently live a **Proverbs 3:5-6** life.

Let's Eat – Recipe

Pumpkin Cake



If cooler fall weather has you craving pumpkin desserts, try this old-fashioned cake recipe. This homey **Pumpkin Cake** is made with brown sugar, cinnamon, and buttermilk for a fragrant, not-too-sweet treat. Feel free to use canned mashed pumpkin for an easy way to speed up this recipe. The cake is delicious eaten on its own, or you can whip up a quick Spiced Whipped Cream to spread over and between the layers. The Whipped Cream keeps this cake light and fresh for the season.

Ingredients

Cake:

- Baking spray with flour
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (4 oz.) unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 3/4 cup mashed cooked pumpkin
- 1/3 cup whole buttermilk
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon table salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 cups (about 8 1/2 oz.) all-purpose flour, divided
- 2/3 cup chopped pecans
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg (optional)

Spiced Whipped Cream:

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 3 tablespoons sifted powdered sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

Directions

1. Make the Cake: Preheat oven to 350°F. Generously coat 2 (8-inch) round cake pans with baking spray. Beat brown sugar, butter, and granulated sugar with a hand mixer on high speed until creamy, about 2 minutes. Add egg and pumpkin; beat well.
2. Stir together buttermilk and baking soda in a small bowl until dissolved. Stir together baking powder, salt, cinnamon, and 1 3/4 cups of the flour in a separate bowl until combined; add to sugar-butter mixture alternately with buttermilk mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture, beating on low speed until incorporated after each addition. Toss together pecans and remaining 1/4 cup flour in a separate small bowl; fold into batter.
3. Pour batter evenly into prepared cake pans. Bake in preheated oven until a wooden pick inserted in centers comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Cool in pans 10 minutes. Remove from pans, and cool completely on a wire rack, about 30 minutes.
4. Make the Spiced Whipped Cream: Beat cream with an electric mixer fitted with a whisk attachment on high speed cream until foamy, about 1 minute. Gradually add powdered sugar, cinnamon, and ginger, beating on high speed until stiff peaks form, about 1 1/2 minutes. Store in refrigerator up to 30 minutes.
5. Spread Spiced Whipped Cream between layers and on top of cake. If desired, sprinkle cake with nutmeg.

Recipe by: **Southern Living**

Let's Eat – Recipe

Spiced Apple Cut Out Sugar Cookie Recipe



Submitted By Sister Patrice Savoy

The Sweetest Suite Cake Company

www.sweetestsuite.com

Servings: 35 average sized cookies

Ingredients

- 2 cups salted butter, room temperature
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 5 packs spiced apple powder drink mix
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp natural apple flavoring *optional
- 5 cups all-purpose flour

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together in the bowl of an electric mixer on low speed. (Use the paddle attachment). Mix until thoroughly incorporated - for about one minute. Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a plastic spatula and mix again for a few seconds more. Over mixing the butter and sugar in this step will cause too much air to be incorporated into the dough. If you'd like a light and fluffy cookie, that's ideal; however, the dough will spread more during baking; not ideal if you'd like the cookie to hold its shape.
3. Add the spiced apple powder and mix.
4. Add eggs slowly and mix. Scrape down the bowl with your spatula at least once and mix again.
5. Add the flour in 2 or 3 stages to the bowl and mix on low speed for about 30 seconds to 1 minute, and observe the dough mixing. When it starts to come together and the dough clumps around the paddle attachment and peels away from the sides of the mixer, it should be the right texture.

A quick note - To see if your dough is ready, you can test the dough by pinching it between your thumb and index finger. If it's soft but not sticky, it's just right. If it's too sticky when you pinch it between your fingers, add flour, ¼ cup at a time, and mix until you're happy with the texture.

Roll the dough out between 2 large pieces of parchment paper. Place on a baking sheet and put it into the fridge or freezer for a minimum of 1 hour.
6. Cut out cookie shapes. Place on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Re-roll scraps and repeat. If the dough gets too soft to work with, place in the fridge or freezer periodically to firm up again.
7. Once all cut out, put cookie dough shapes back into the fridge or freezer for 10 minutes to 1 hour to chill again. They will then hold their shape better when baked.
8. Bake cookies for 8-12 minutes or until the edges become golden brown. The baking time will depend on the size and thickness of your cookie.
9. Let cookies cool to room temperature and decorate if you like!

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Greater Saint John Cathedral

Bishop Kevin V. Gresham Sr., Senior Pastor

The LaNetra E. Jones

Breakthrough Ministry

**Do you feel you need a breakthrough
for the Lord...**

Well the Breakthrough Ministry
is looking for youth ages 6 to 18
to become a part of this dynamic ministry.

Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings, at 7p.m.
Please contact the Administrative Office if you have
any questions.

Come Ready To Get Your

Breakthrough On!

FINE ARTS MINISTRY

The new **Theatre Arts Ministry** of Greater is looking for you. We are currently looking for a director preferably with experience in **producing and/or directing productions**. We are looking for **actors, costume/wardrobe specialists, carpenters, and stage crew**.

Please contact **Brother Michael Smith**,
Minister of Music & Fine Arts at gsjcworship@gmail.com
for any further information or questions.

Greater Saint John Cathedral

Bishop Kevin V. Gresham Sr., Senior Pastor

FRESH ANOINTING DANCE MINISTRY



Fresh Anointing is inviting anyone who is interested in joining the ministry.

It is a great way to start your morning with praise and worship to God through dance. We hope to see you on Saturday! If you are interested, contact Sis. Cree Williams at 301-706-1889.

MEDIA MINISTRY

Greater Saint John Cathedral's **Media Ministry**, which consists of both **Audio and Video**, is looking for Disciples who are tech savvy or want to become tech savvy. If you are interested and want to work in a great environment, please let us know.

Please contact **Sister Renee Carr** at rpeacecarr@gmail.com for more information.

Greater Saint John Cathedral
Bishop Kevin V. Gresham Sr., Senior Pastor

SHARE MINISTRY



The **Share Team** is in need of many “**Angels**” to help our church disciples and community during this pandemic. The Share basic packages are \$25 each month. Also, we gladly accept can or dry goods for the baskets as a welcome addition to the nutritious food that will go on the table for many families in our community! All orders are on a first come first served basis until we run out. You may purchase as many packages as you want! Place your order by email at: share@saintjohn.net or text 301-254-2795.

We thank you in advance!



THE A.C.T. INITIATIVE INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST

Please complete the A.C.T. Form
to be included on the list.

http://bit.ly/TheACT_Form

Greater Saint John Cathedral
Bishop Kevin V. Gresham Sr., Senior Pastor

THE GREATER CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DAYCARE CENTER
IS EXCITED TO SPONSOR ITS ANNUAL ST. JUDE TRIKE-A-THON



TRIKE-A-THON FUNDRAISER



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

We are raising money for **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital** to help fight childhood cancer. Please help us continue to support families during their time of need. We are asking each disciple to support us by asking family, friends, neighbors and business partners to help us with this wonderful event. Our Trike-A-Thon takes place on Friday, October 21st but we need you. A Sponsorship Form will be available in the Narthex at the Concierge's Desk.

You can help us reach our goal by visiting the table in the Narthex or visit stjude.org/trike to donate until **October 27th**.

Thank you in advance for every contribution.

Greater Saint John Cathedral

Bishop Kevin V. Gresham Sr., Senior Pastor

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The Greater Christian Community Daycare Center is now enrolling for our 2022 - 2023 School Year. Spaces are available in our 2, 3 and 4 year old classrooms. Tours are scheduled daily. Please call the Center on 301-574-0935 to schedule a tour or check us out at gccdc.saintjohn.net.

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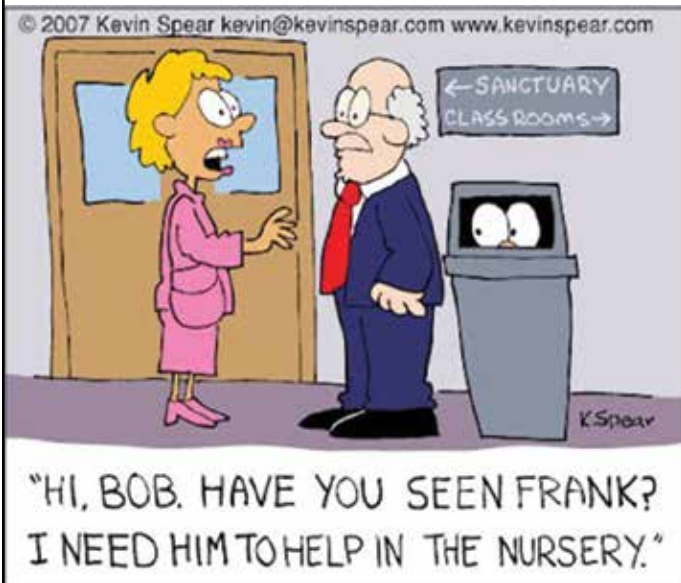
Fall Word Search



WORD LIST

ACORN	BONFIRE	FOOTBALL	LEAVES	RAKING	SQUIRRELS
APPLES	CHANGING	FROST	MUSHROOMS	RED	TREES
AUTUMN	COLORS	HARVEST	ORANGE	SCARECROW	VEGETABLES
BIRDS	FALL	JACKET	PUMPKINS	SPIDERS	YELLOW

FUN ZONE





Mark Your Calendars EVENTS



OCTOBER

- 9th – Youth Sunday
- 16th – Daycare Appreciation Sunday
- 23rd – Women’s Sunday

NOVEMBER

- 6th – Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 13th – Harvest Day
- 24th – Thanksgiving Day Service

DECEMBER

- 17th – Stronger Together Couples Ministry Fellowship Breakfast
- 25th – Christmas Day Service
- 31st – Watch Night Service

THEME FOR 2022



THINK ON THIS:

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.” - *Robert Louis Stevenson*

“It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you’ll do things differently.” - *Warren Buffett*

“When something is important enough, you do it even if the odds are not in your favor.” - *Elon Musk*

“Talent is God-given. Be humble. Fame is Man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful.” - *John Wooden*

WAYS TO Give



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Greater Saint John Cathedral

BISHOP KEVIN V. GRESHAM SR.

LADY DENISE GRESHAM

JOIN US FOR Online WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 VIA YOUTUBE

PPS (PRAYER, PRAISE & STUDY)
TUESDAYS AT 7:00PM VIA YOUTUBE

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FIRST SUNDAY EACH MONTH

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAYS VIA ZOOM

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MEETING ID: 736-7333-6219	MEETING ID: 784-6981-6376
PASSWORD: 094494	PASSWORD: 077172

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to proclaim the Good News of the gospel and teach godly principles for a Greater Life.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to have an abundantly blessed ministry that is both Supernatural and Spirit Filled.