

The Jabez Report

Greater Saint John Cathedral

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Articles for inclusion in the **Spring Edition 2024** issue are due by, **March 4, 2024**. 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.



POWER LIVING

Genesis 1:26–28 (NKJV)—²⁶Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Let me tell you how I truly feel. I think we take the Lord for granted quite a bit—in fact, I think we do so most of the time. In the first chapter of Genesis, there are two unquestionable facts:

1. He is the Creator.
2. We are His creation.

As a result, we need to consider the purpose behind the creation of man. The answer to such question is clear from **Genesis 1:26-28**:

1. To be created in God’s likeness
2. To procreate and multiply
3. To saturate and subdue the earth
4. To have dominion

This was how man and woman were intended to be from the beginning. So, let us discuss numbers three and four: to populate the globe, to subdue it and to have dominion. I find the word “subdue” to be fascinating. There is a lot of focus on the process, which suggests that some elements or circumstances must be controlled.

There will always be problems in life, but the Lord has given us the ability to conquer them. As a result, you may face any obstacle head-on, knowing that the Lord has given you the ability to overcome it.

- Difficulties at work: subdue it.
- Overcome obstacles in your family - subdue it.
- Difficulties with your health - subdue it.

All we need to do is put the word “subdue” into practice; it is both exhaustive and comprehensive.

We are told that we have dominion in number 4. You already have this; it’s not something you will acquire. You are the one who has it because of who you are in God.

I pray that the Greater Nation will implement numbers three and four by 2024.



CHRISTMAS WISHES TO OUR GREATER FAMILY

From The Jabez Ministry

May your hearts be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives.

Jesus is the reason for the season. May God fill your all your days with immeasurable prosperity and joy!

The Jabez Ministry is sending prayers and hearty Christmas greetings to our Shepherd, his family and each and every one of Greater's Disciples, Leaders, Trustees, Pastors, Ministers, Ushers, Deaconess, Deacons, Admin. Staff, visitors, etc. May each of you receive the most special blessings of God during this Christmas Season! May you have the gift of faith, the blessings of hope and the peace of His love at Christmas and always!

We pray that each of you receive one blessing after another for 2024 and beyond and that He grants peace, joy, goodwill, strength and health to all of you. May the wonder of that first Christmas, the joy of God's abundant blessings and the peace of Jesus' presence be with you always.

We would be remiss if we did not thank all who contributed to the success of The Jabez Report. Without your contributions and dedication, the Report would not be the success that it is.

Thank You and May God Bless You!



FINDING JOY IN CHAOS



By 1st Lady Denise Gresham

Romans 15:13—Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As Christmas approaches, we hear Christmas songs playing on the radio, we see decorations in stores and in our homes. We're just singing the amazing songs and we are amazed at the beautiful decorations. Oh, how exciting. Yet, for many, Christmas is the most challenging time of the year. Unmet expectations and disappointments lead to many people finding themselves stressed, grumpy, frustrated, depressed and alone.

It is hard to be joyful when you feel like there is no joy left within you. Life is hard enough and when you add the holidays, it can be a disaster. Maybe you have a broken family relationship, have lost a job, a loved one, or loss of traditions or battling a serious illness. Please know that you are not alone. I know life can be hard. I'm so sorry you are going through a difficult time. You have family and friends who love you. Most importantly, you have a Heavenly Father who loves you so much more and knows your hurt.

You ask, how do we find joy in a season of chaos? We must choose joy! Let me tell you, by no means it's not easy, but we have to make a conscious effort. We may not be able to change our circumstances, but we can choose to change our attitude which is so important. Instead of looking at the cup as half empty, let's decide to look at our cup as half full. Comparing ourselves to others and what they have is a big trap! Comparison always leaves you feeling you need to be more, do more and get more.

In a time of year that encourages you to buy things that will help you find joy; this Christmas Season remember that true joy can't be purchased by anyone. The latest technology gift, kitchen gadget, shoes, handbags, etc. can't begin to fill the void only Jesus can fill. Pure joy was bought and paid for on a cross over two thousand years ago by one whose name is Jesus! No one else could come close to affording something with a price tag that high.

The best gifts in life are the ones you can't buy, but give outrageously to one another such as a smile, a hug, kindness, love, mercy and forgiveness. Take some time this Christmas Season and spend time in God's Word and prayer. Ask Him to give you strength and peace to face this different kind of Christmas and days to come.

Thank you Greater family for your prayers, love, support, kindness and encouragement this year. May you and your family have a blessed, happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

I love you, but God loves you best!



THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT



By Pastor-in-Training Christina Williams

Luke 2:12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.

In 1975, gospel artist Walter Hawkins released a song entitled “*Thank You*”. It is a timeless classic and the lyrics still ring true today. The song says:

Tragedies are common place;
All kinds of diseases, people are slipping away.
Economies down, people can’t get enough pay.
Folks without homes, living out in the streets;
And the drug habit some say, they just can’t beat.
Muggers and robbers, no place seems to be safe.

With all that was going on in the world back then and is still going on today, it can sometimes be difficult to find something to be thankful for. However, Walter Hawkins didn’t leave us in despair, the song continues with:

But You’ll be my protection every step of the way;
And I want to say, thank you Lord for all You’ve done for me.

Over 2,000 years ago, God gave us something to be thankful for. He gave us a gift, and that gift was wrapped in swaddling cloths. This gift did not come beautifully wrapped with a big red bow. This gift was not on our Christmas list and it wasn’t placed under the Christmas tree with all of the other gifts. This gift was outside in a manger. This may not have been the gift we wanted, but God knew it was the gift we needed.

This gift that God gave us was sent to save, heal, deliver and to give us eternal life. This gift took on our sins and the sins of this world so that we could have life and have it more abundantly. Our gift hung and died on a tree instead of being placed under the tree with all the other gifts.

After dying on a tree, the gift keeps on giving. Our gift lives and continues to protect us and provide for us each and every day. Our gift is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Our gift is Jesus! The only begotten son of the Father!

So, this Christmas season no matter what is going on in your life, you have something to be thankful for!

This Christmas season you ought to say “Thank you Lord for all you’ve done for me”! As Walter Hawkins says:

It could have been me outdoors;
No food and no clothes.
Or left alone without a friend;
Or just another number with a tragic end.
But you didn’t see fit to let none of these things be;
Cause everyday by Your power, You keep on keeping me.

Thank You, Lord, for all You’ve done for me!

Thank You for the Gift!



I'M GOING THROUGH, ARE YOU TOO?

By Minister Ronald Simpson

Isaiah 43:2 (NKJV)—When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

Before I start, let me throw out a few names, Joseph, Job, Sara and Jesus. It will become clearer later on as to why I chose these names.

Each day, I see something that draws my attention. It usually has to do with an issue that is either mine or someone else's, who has spoken to me, or it could just be a word that springs forth out of a meditation.

I was lead to the passage because it contained the word that kept showing up. That word is through. Understand this, that word "through" has played a significant role in how I often minister to myself and others.

So let me say this to you right now, I'm going through, how about you? Let me ask once again, I'm going through, how about you? Many times when we go through rough periods that seem to impact us in a negative way, it is how we react to those periods. I have often asked myself, when is this going to end, how can I stop the bleeding? I have said, why me, what have I done to deserve this? I go to church, I pray, why is this happening to me? Have any of you ever done this?

Like I said earlier the phrase that kept popping up was, why am I going through this? It was right there and I couldn't see it because I was blinded by the trouble I was having at that time. That word through was the word that said it all. Can you just give me a few more minutes and I can tell you how it began to affect me and how it turned my sadness into a better livable way of thinking.

The word through is written a number of times in the scripture. It means, just like Isaiah wrote, you are going through, you are not standing still, in other words the time will pass because it is not permanent. When I understood what that meant, I gave a shout to the Lord. I was not stuck in a place that was going to be my permanent residence. Oh my goodness, that was such a relief. Just like the ad said, pop, pop, fizz, fizz - oh what a relief it is!

If you want more proof that troubles don't last always, let me tell you another story about how the Lord let me know He is there in good and bad times. In the Gospel of *Matthew 14th* Chapter, it tells of how Jesus fed the people and how He had been healing people. He was tired and He told the Apostles to pick up the leftovers and to get in the boat; He would see them later. He then went up on a mountain and while He was there praying, a storm arose.

Understand that while He was on the mountain, He could see everything that was going on. He was sitting high and looking low. Can you just close your eyes and envision Jesus looking down on your storm? I can better understand how my problems are like a storm. Jesus sees the storm in your life. He knows how it starts, He sees it in the middle and sees its end. Like many of us, including me, we think our storm will never end. However, if you just compare your storm to the storm that Jesus was looking down on and how He responded to the men on the boat, then you can see that you are never alone in your tribulations. He walked on the water to go to them and to calm their fears.

Just like the Prophet Isaiah wrote, no matter what you may be dealing with, no matter how hard the trial maybe, it is written that "I will be with you".

You can use an umbrella to protect yourself from the physical storm, just know that in your life's storm, God is your umbrella and He will see you through that storm. Just like storms began, they will end. Let me leave you with a few

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more tidbits. There was a song that the Winans sang. It says “*Ain’t no need to worry what the night is gonna bring, it will be all over in the morning*”.

As I listened to these words, it just resonated with my spirit and I heard some more words from another song. They go like this “*Morning by morning new mercies I see, all I have needed thy hand hath provided, great is thy faithfulness Lord unto me.*”

Let me just burden you for one more thought. See how trials never last, they just seem like it. See how God can see us through our hard times. If you want further proof of this, hear the words of the people in the book of ***Lamentations 3rd*** Chapter. You know what they had been going through, but they cried out to the Lord and these are the words they prayed; ²²*Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. ²³They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

There’s that word again,” through”. Let that be the word you think of and bolster yourself whenever you believe that there is no end to your storm. Remember the names of the people I told you about at the beginning of the scripture – Joseph, Job, Sara and Jesus? They are but a few of the people in the scripture whose stories tell us about their journeys. Their stories tell us of how they came through and the rewards they received. This should be a constant reminder to us too.

Remember storms don’t last always!

Be Blessed.



MORE THAN WORDS



By Sister Janice Shields

The Holiday Season brings a range of emotions for so many people. This year, I find myself lost in memories of when my children were little people and how they spent hours and days writing and rewriting dream wish lists for toys, games and whatever else they could imagine.

The road down memory lane led me to thoughts of thankfulness to God and if I had a thousand tongues, I could never thank HIM for countless blessings. My spirit is filled with the lyrics of Rev. James Cleveland, “Jesus Is the Best Thing... that ever happened to me”!

So, I cannot end my last Jabez article for 2023 without giving my testimony of how good Jesus has been in my life and my family’s life.

Greater’s proclamation of a *Genesis 26* blessing took root in many ways with my family and me. We had health scares that were never as bad as they could have been; received financial blessings in terms of promotions and awards and all these blessings came from answered prayers. God has been more than good to us.

For years, I prayed that somehow, some way, my student loan and my children’s astronomical student loans would be paid in full and that it would not take 20-25 years to pay them off. With each payment made and the weight of the massive debt, I held on to my mustard seed faith. God answered my prayers with the exact words I prayed for—**PAID IN FULL!** When I read the words in the letter, I could not talk but I could feel the tears stream from my eyes.

God is not done yet! Just like I did not know how God was going to wipe out the student loans (for me and my 2 sons), somehow, some way, my daughter’s loans will be paid in full too. I know it is all in God’s timing! God did it before and I know HE can do it again! I couldn’t wait to share this good news!

So, I end this article by repeating the lyrics, “*Jesus Is the Best Thing...that ever happened to me*” and if I had a thousand tongues I could never thank HIM for all that HE has done; is doing and has yet to do!

God is not done!



“ACT LIKE RUDOLPH”



By Brother Tony P. D. Williams

Matthew 5:16—“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

I would imagine most people have enjoyed the book, the song or the movie named “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.” The story shows the experiences of Rudolph, a young reindeer who has an unusual luminous red nose. Rudolph was mocked and excluded by the other reindeer because of this trait. However, he proves himself on Christmas Eve when inclement weather caused poor visibility. After Santa Claus sees Rudolph’s nose and asks Rudolph to lead his sleigh for the evening, Rudolph agrees and is finally liked by his fellow reindeer for his heroism and accomplishment.

Let us take a moment to analyze the song.

(I do not own the rights to the lyrics of this song)

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
Had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it
You would even say it glows

- **Others recognized Rudolph’s gift. Your gift often shines even when you are being humble.**

All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games

- **The other reindeer were jealous of Rudolph, treated him badly and did not want to be bothered with him. People will mistreat you when God blesses you with a gift or a talent.**

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say
Rudolph with your nose so bright
Won’t you guide my sleigh tonight?

- **Santa needed Rudolph’s shiny nose to light the sky and save Christmas. Leadership will recognize your gift or talent and recruit you to utilize your gift for the greater good.**

Then all the reindeer loved him
And they shouted out with glee
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
You’ll go down in history!”

- **After mistreating Rudolph, now the other reindeer were like his personal cheerleaders. When your gifts or talents save the day, people want to celebrate you and act as though they were rooting for you all along.**

Even though the other reindeer had mistreated Rudolph, he was obedient when Santa Claus needed his gift to save the day. Do not be cocky but be confident, do not be arrogant but be assured. Be humble and know that everyone is looking to see how you act. Do not let your light shine to dim someone else’s light. However, do not dim your light to please others when God directs you to do something. Make sure that when you let your light shine that you do it so God can get all of the glory. Just be a willing vessel to use the gift (light) that God gave you. Remember to “Act Like Rudolph.”

Amen.



WE ARE THE SUBSTANCE

By Minister Katina Palmer

Hebrews 11 (NKJV)—¹Now faith is the [a]substance of things hoped for, the [b]evidence of things not seen. ²For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. ³By faith we understand that the [c]worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Many of us had heard about the term faith long before we had a personal understanding of what faith means to us. Faith is not a tangible construct, yet it is an experience that all can have the benefit of much like God. As a child, we were taught about God and even may have seen the picture of Jesus as described by man. Yet, as we matured and came into a relationship with God, sometimes by choice and sometimes by force, we came to realize that our understanding and image of God, much like our attitude at times, is limited.

We learned in *Genesis* that we are created in His image. So that means that the presence and characteristics of God can't be summarized by one simple portrait of a singular man. Rather, every person that we come into contact with is also a reflection of the Father. This means that the vastness of God surpasses our understanding because of His greatness. This also means that there is a deepness in God to be experienced once we come to understand that He is truly all things at all times. Ubiquitous.

Gaining this understanding will help us to realize just how much we limit ourselves by boxing in our faith based upon what is familiar or comfortable to us. Yes, that means that at times our discomfort is based on our familiarity with the discomfort.

Yet, our faith has the capacity to experience the deepness of God in such a way that we can learn how to walk by faith and not by sight. It is in our walking, trusting and leaning on God's understanding that we get to experience the fullness of our faith no matter the circumstances.

We each will have storms, turmoil and rainbows at different times in our walk with God. Yet, when we activate our faith walk, then we are able to speak to our circumstances and expect the outcome to bless us indeed.

It is in our faith that we learn how to endure the ebbs and flows of this world. Our faith does not remove us from the chaos, rather it shields us because we are not operating in our own vain.

We know this to be true because verse 1 tells us that our faith is the substance of things hoped for. This means that there is some weight or added value to our hope. Our hope is not frivolous or without direction. Rather, our hope is headed in the direction of believing that God is who He says He is in spite of what we can see, think or imagine.

Think about your faith like this. No one can create yourself at the very beginning. We were formed with all of the intentions and goodness of God. Now, as we get older, God has to watched us grow and waited for us to choose Him. The substance of God's faith is that His creation would willing choose Him because of our need for Him.

When we choose Him, we have no idea of just how much better our lives will become. God's word never says that we are exempt from pain, strife, happiness or joy. Rather, in our faith walk, we can be of good cheer and courage in every circumstance because He is the I am that I am.

God being who He is, He gave us the creation of life all around us. For no matter how much artificial creations occur, we can't fake faith as it is an internal response to the connection of God inside of us. The evidence of our faith becomes the output in the lives of those we come into contact with.

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Oh yes, we were created in community and no matter how much we may think ourselves as separate, we truly are not. For the Word tells us that the body has many members and each member serves a specific function, as do our faith.

Our faith tells God that we trust Him and that He can trust us. Our faith tells others that we will not be tossed to and fro with the ups and downs of this world. Our faith tells us that we are believing in the One who created us, who formed us, who knows us and who loves us unconditionally. Our faith says that we are able to overcome but Jesus already overcame. Our faith says that we are not in control even when we want to be.

You see, faith requires us to believe even when we don't know how. That is why God provided the light for us to follow no matter what wilderness, valley or mountaintop experiences we may have. It is when we walk by God's faith that we truly understand verse 3.

³By faith we understand that the [c]worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

God framed everything and it is He who makes the invisible, visible. It is God who constructed our ability to have faith in Him to begin with. It is God who asks us to totally depend on Him for everything because in our dependence on Him, we have the substance to hope for the things that are yet to be seen.

Just remember that our hope was restored and redeemed in the sacrifice of Jesus and because of Him, we are the substance of things hoped for that we will reflect the one and true living God on this earth.

Be Blessed.



WE'RE DIFFERENT

By Minister Jerry Clark

Regardless of how it looks, God is still good. Some may say how is God still good when we look at the violence going on in our community, surrounding areas and the world. When we see or hear about the violence, wars or anything negative that's going on in this world, how are we reacting? Are we speaking life, hope or praying for the situations or are we just entertaining the conversation or allowing the issues of life to affect us to the point where we are questioning our own beliefs by what we say or how we react to the news? Remember we are in this world but not of it.

I say God is good because He has kept us. It's not easy doing what God has called us to do; living a life that God has called us to live. I know some of you would agree that it isn't easy doing God's will. However, that is who God is. He cleans you up and causes you to walk a straight path. When we are weak, God can make us strong if we seek Him.

John 17:17 says *sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth.* Sanctify means to be set apart or declared holy. That's what one's faith in Jesus does. Believing in Jesus through God and the Holy Spirit allows us to be sanctified and set apart from others which means to be different. We are different Greater. This world will not take us and the issues of life will not knock us off track. The God who we serve is Greater than any issue we are facing. Yes, we are different Greater. God has called us to be different and set apart.

The issues of life are coming whether we are ready or not. The question is how are we going to react. Yes, things are going to happen on the news, at work, on the highways and at home. Whether you are dealing with your spouses, children, parents or other family members or friends, issues are going to come.

Proverbs 13:3 says *He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.* I like how the NLT states that *Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything.* I'm trying to trust God when it comes to communication, whether it be with my boss, co-workers, wife and children. I ask that you'll pray for me in this area.

Romans 12:1 says *do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

In closing, I will end with **Romans 12.2 (NLT)** says *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

Greater, we have giants whom we will face; however, I pray that we are able to react in a way that is not of this world but rather a sanctified way. A way in which God gets the glory, a way that gives people hope and a future even when the situations look dark. That's the God I that I serve and His will, also how we know God is working through us.

Peace and Amen.



TO SEE



By Sister Brookita Braxton

Matthew 2:9-10 – 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

1 Peter 1:22 (EVR)—You have made yourselves pure by obeying the truth. Now you can have true love for your brothers and sisters. So love each other deeply—with all your heart.

During the Holiday Season, let's remember to take the time to see each other. The art of gift giving is like an annual acknowledgment of showing the ones you love that you see them. Picking the right gift says "I see how you experience the world." I want to honor that. In both passages, we learn how to love each other deeply through our presence, as well as through the gifts we give. Even though Jesus was a baby, the Magi presented gifts that prophetically announced how we would experience the presence of our Precious Savior.

I see this as a practical truth for life - see us, see them, see you, see me. When you obey truth only, then will you be able to love others deeply. I just started listening to an audio book by David Brooks, "*How to Know a Person: The Art of Deeply Seeing Others and Being Deeply Seen.*" While Mr. Brooks presents his definition of concepts, **1 Peter 1:22** offers me the truth as my true spiritual foundation.

It's no accident that the December Bible Study, and my December 6 Joyce Meyer devotional, both focused on **1 Peter 2:6**. It was my call to dig deeper by reading backwards. **1 Peter 1:22** jumped off the page. I asked the Lord to tell me what to write for this Newsletter and I believe this is where I should park my pen.

"To love deeply means you have to see deeply. The opening of the book talks about how we go through life making sweeping generalizations about people. He mentions there are two types of people: those who focus on learning the person in front of them and others who want to prove themselves to the person in front of them. It seems like in this world of proving, society is forgetting how to take the time to see.

True love sees intentionally. In the book's opening chapter it states that "to know someone is to know how they experience the world; to be present to understand how people see and experience the world." I would challenge you as I challenge myself to get to know people even the people you think you already know and for a moment experience their worldview.

It takes a brave soul to do this as many may feel they will become compromised. However, I'm processing and grasping the concept that if I want to emulate Christ, then I must be open to see Him through His door of entry into my brothers' and sisters' lives. The Magi saw the baby Jesus as He was and what He would be to you and me. As a baby, He saw them too!

So, we can ask ourselves: "How does He uniquely see them? How do they see Him? What does that look like in their everyday life?"

We want to be like Christ and for us to be the chosen and precious daughters and sons of God, it means He sees us deeply and I propose we should endeavor to see others.

My quest is to adopt this mindset as I relate to others and I hope it becomes yours as well. In 2024, let's start knocking at our brothers' and sisters' worldview doors to know them as the chosen and precious vessels that they are. How do they experience Christ? How do they see Him? How do they see Him in you? How do you see Him in them? To be seen through intentional gift-giving or acknowledgement is an expression of gratitude and love for our existence.

I leave you with the challenge to live up to this popular phrase, "I see you."



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#



A Prayer for the Senior Connection Leaders

*By Minister Minnie Torrey
The Senior Connection*

Father, we come this day to give You glory, honor and praise. We Hallelujah You and bless your holy name for You are worthy of all our praise. Please forgive us of our sins, restore and renew a right spirit within us and thank you for Your forgiveness. We love You Lord. We Shabach Your holy name.

Today, we come lifting up all Seniors here and all over the world. Hear us as we cry out to You. Whatever the problem, shelter us, be our strength and our guide. Help us to go through our trials and temptations when they come. We know that You will take us through. Help us to count it all joy. When we fall, help us to trust and have faith while holding on to Your unchanging hand. Hear our call and come when we cry out to You for You are God who answers prayers.

Strengthen our bodies - prop us up when we are weak; sharpen our minds as we continue to have birthdays, be our Shepherd and we shall not want. Help us to accept those things in life that we cannot change. Help us not to stand fearful and get stuck, but to keep moving and pressing on without worrying or being depressed. We are thankful for each day You give us for every day is a day of thanksgiving with You.

We are grateful for all that we have and love all of our family and friends. As we continue to be faithful and trust in You every day, we ask that You keep watch over us and pray to Jesus to intercede on our behalf. We will continue to give You all the glory, honor and praise.

In Jesus' name, we love and adore You.

Amen!



Prayer for Bishop and First Lady Gresham

By Deaconess Lorraine Fogle

The Senior Connection

Kind Heavenly Father, we honor and give You glory on today. This is the day that You have made and we will rejoice and be glad in it. You are a Great God and greatly to be praised. What a mighty God we serve. We come asking Your blessings upon Bishop Gresham and First Lady Gresham. Grant them peace and strength to continue the ministry You assigned to both of them.

Thank You for the vision that You have given Bishop Gresham. Please anoint him a fresh anointing each morning and provide good laborers to help him carry the vision. Bless their going out and coming in. Supply all their needs and keep them healthy. Thank you for the love they share and lives they touch.

It is in Jesus' name that we ask and believe You will grant this request.

Amen



A Prayer for the Church Family

By Sister Dorothy Fairweather

The Senior Connection

Father, thank You for the Greater Saint John Cathedral's church family who are spiritually alive in You. We pray for continued strength in spirit, soul and body as we do your work. We thank You for Your continued answers to prayers by the church family for health, wholeness and salvation.

We thank You for Jesus' concern to heal the sick in body, soul and spirit. He was also concerned and paid close attention to the minds and spirits in His healing ministry. For this, we are grateful and give You thanks in Jesus' name.

We pray for Your strength in making situational changes in our lives and Your comfort in difficult moments. We pray for divine protection for the church family and all their concerns as they travel and move about in this season in the safety of the Holy Spirit.

We thank You Father because You are all seeing, knowing and powerful. You are in control of all occurrences. Your Disciples have Your many blessings upon their lives in their continued endurance, perseverance, patience and overcoming power by the Holy Spirit to continue the Propagation of the Gospel.

Propagation of the Gospel:

Jesus Christ is the only foundation upon which the church is built and is growing. Jesus commissioned His Disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature (**Mark 16:15**). Father, we pray for church growth in the way You want it spiritually and in numbers, in love and obedience to the man of God who is the Shepherd of the Greater Nation.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

A Prayer for Our Children's Protection

By Minister Arthur Williams

The Senior Connection

From the rising of the sun until the going down of the same, You continuously shower us with Your unconditional love. Lord God, we know that Your understanding is infinite. You sit high and look low, all the way beyond our faults, and we thank You for all of your creation, love and power.

Lord, like little babies we stretch our hands up to You in honor because You are worthy. We pray to You in faith. We are helpless without You. You continuously breathe Your breath into us. Since we have breath in us, we give Your name praise. You placed us above all of Your creation so we glorify Your name.

Lord, our faith is in You that You will look upon our newborn babies, our little children thru the age of 18-years old. God keep them safe from all hurt, harm and danger. Help them grow physically and spiritually, allow them to come to You in spirit and in truth. As they mature, Lord please continue to show them love, give them grace. As You do these things, we will continue to give You praise, honor and glory.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be excepted in Your sight.

In Jesus name,

Amen.



A Prayer for Daycares

By Minister Minnie P. Rascoe

The Senior Connection

Dear Heavenly Father, we come to You this day with a grateful heart, thanking You for Your grace and mercy. We thank You Heavenly Father for giving us this opportunity to call Your name one more time. We're standing in the gap for the Daycare Center at Greater, those associated with Greater and around the world. We Thank You Father for giving Bishop Kevin Gresham Sr the vision for the Daycare and his obedience in following Your Word.

Heavenly Father, we lift our hands in praise for the Daycare Centers that are needed for those parents who work and those who just need a break. We're asking You to put a hedge of protection around the children as they travel to and from their respective Centers.

Let the children be greeted with love, patience and kindness when they enter the Center from entry into the Center until they leave.

We are asking You to provide resources to those establishments who are expanding their facility to accommodate more children. Dear Father, help the staff to create Centers that are a safe haven away from home. Scripture fosters peace and guidance in their lives. Those Centers who are not physically able to teach scripture, let their actions represent the scriptures. *Psalm 127:3* tells us: "*Behold, children are a Heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.*" Help the teachers, staff and parents treat all children as a reward, realizing they are a Heritage from the Lord.

Proverbs 22:6 tells us" *to train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*" That training starts at home, but it also filters down to the daycare centers. So Dear Heavenly Father, help our parents and daycare faculty to be on one accord for the sake of the children.

Father, bless each person who has a hand in caring for the children at Daycare Centers. Bless them indeed!

It's in Jesus' matchless name I pray.

Amen.

Prayer for Healing
By Sister Christine Anderson-Payne
The Senior Connection

Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Father, I thank you for our Pastor Bishop Kevin Gresham Sr .and First Lady Denise Gresham for preaching and teaching the Gospel to the disciples of Greater Saint John Cathedral.

Father, I come before You in prayer for healing. You said in Your Word, **Ephesians 6:10-11** “*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*”

Father, I ask that You touch our hearts, minds, bodies and souls and we claim healing in Jesus’ name. You know when we are sick, weak, broken and in need of Your healing touch. Lord, thank You for allowing us to claim the victory in our healing as we go through any challenge that could come into our lives.

Father, You are Jehovah Jireh “the Lord will Provide.” You will provide all that we need to sustain us through sickness and the challenges of this life. You are Jehovah Rapha “the God who heals.” With Your love, grace and mercy for us, You can bring healing to our hearts, minds, bodies and souls and by faith in Your Word we can be confident that we can stand on Your Word. We can trust and believe what Your Word says in **Isaiah 53:5** that “*...He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities And by His stripes we are healed.*”

Father, we trust You and Your Word over our lives. Thank You for loving Your children and listening to our prayers. You are faithful to Your church and its disciples. We have to be strong and confident to know that You will do what You said. Thank You for Your grace and mercy that covers us as we go through our valleys.

Father, we claim our blessings for healing in Jesus name!

Amen

.....

Prayer for the Mentally Challenged
By Sister Vernessa Britter
The Senior Connection

Psalm 34:17-20 (NKJV)—¹⁷*The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.* ¹⁸*The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as [d]have a contrite spirit.* ¹⁹*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.* ²⁰*He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.*

Most wise and eternal Father, how powerful is Your name in all the earth. Father God, I come before You this day in the name of Jesus, asking You to have mercy upon your children, those who have lost their way due to mental instability. God, I pray that You will direct their steps by Your Word and let no evil have dominion over them. Redeem them from the oppression of man, that they will seek You.

Make Your face shine upon Your people and teach them Your way, because You are a mind regulator, a Healer who heals all sickness and disease. You are the way, the truth and the life. I pray that You will give them a mind of peace, as they face their everyday mental struggles and health challenges.

God have Your way in their lives and let them know to cast all their cares upon You, for You care for them. Bless their families and help them to have compassion for them, and also to be patient with them, as they cry out for help.

Give Your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in Your loving care through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the name of Jesus, I pray.

Amen!

A Prayer Over Finances
By Sister Theresa Jennings
The Senior Connection

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Father God, we come before You this day recognizing that You Are God and God alone. We acknowledge You as Jehovah Jireh, the Lord provides.

We thank You for our daily bread. You promised to provide all of our needs according to Your riches and glory in Christ Jesus. Heavenly Father, You know what we have need of and that we should not be anxious for anything, but to seek first Your Kingdom and Your righteousness. Then the things we have need of will be added to us.

Thank You Father for bringing us through these last twelve months. As we begin to look forward to the coming New Year, help us to remember that You have given us all things that pertain to life and godliness and we are able to possess because You have provided them.

We asked that You guide us to seek You and trust You to give us wisdom to be good stewards of all that You will give us. Help us to remember those who are less fortunate and to be a blessing to others as You bless us.

Thank You Father that we are loaded and have a Genesis 26 blessing over our lives. This is our prayer in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!



A Prayer for First Responders
By Dr. Kathy McKoy
The Senior Connection

Heavenly Father, we bless Your name! We come to You with thanksgiving, honor and praise, for You are worthy to be praised!

We thank You for keeping us for such a time as this! We acknowledge You Lord for being Supreme, Almighty and All knowing! You are our Creator and our Maker! You have kept us thru seen and unseen dangers!

Lord we lift up First Responders throughout the land and Country! We lift up policemen and their families. We lift up firefighters and their families. Lord we lift up Emergency Management Technicians and their families. We lift up all 1st responders in any capacity at any level to You. Also, bless nurses, doctors, hospital care workers and those in the medical field. Lord they encounter deadly diseases and situations daily. We ask that You cover them with Your blood to protect them and keep them from hurt, harm and danger.

Guide their thoughts as they put their lives on the front lines to protect and ensure safety for others. Be their guide, Lord, and allow them to think clearly for all involved to bring about the best and safest end to each and every situation they encountered. Direct and order their footsteps and actions each day Lord and allow them to continuously and consciously do things that will honor You and give You glory as they protect others. In the mighty matchless name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Savior.

Lord, allow the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you, for You Lord are our strength and our redeemer.

Amen!

Prayer for Government Workers

By Brother Jerry McKoy

The Senior Connection

Dear Lord, we thank You today for life, health and strength. We thank You, Lord, for being in the land of the living! We thank You Lord for your Son Jesus who died on the cross to save us.

Lord, we come to You today lifting up all areas of the Government, those in charge of laws, rules and regulations governing the lives of your people. Lord, our political structure seems to be in disarray, but Lord we trust in You and Your word.

Your word has commanded us to pray for those in Jerusalem and leaders in our Country. You know the challenges they face each and every day. Please guide them to do what is right and pleasing in Your sight. Allow them to operate in integrity whether no one is looking or not. Allow the men and women of our Government to have high moral character and concrete values. Create in them a clean heart and renew their minds to govern the people fairly. Keep their hands clean from wrong doing and their hearts pure to treat everyone with dignity and respect.

We love You and we are trusting in You to see us through in these last and evil days. We know You are soon to return and we desire to be ready to meet you in the sky.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen



Prayer for Gun Control and Gun Violence

By Deaconess Patricia Williams

The Senior Connection

Scripture: Psalm 35 (NKJV)

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your grace and mercy towards us. You are great and greatly to be praised, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. Your name is worthy to be praised. Please forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Create in us a clean heart and renew a right Spirit within us this day.

We are praying for gun violence and gun control. Merciful Lord, we come crying out for the families who have lost loved ones by the hands of those using weapons of war and the families who have lost love ones in our communities to senseless killings. We're crying out to You to stop the gun violence that is plaguing our world. We know that You are all powerful, all knowing and ever present. We are asking that Your will be done in these matters. Teach us Your ways, bless us with the wisdom and strength to put down our guns and be peacemakers.

Use us and work through us in spite of us, to mend our broken nations. We need You to give the leaders of our countries some insight on how to deal with the gun control laws that will make this world a better and safer place for Your people.

In the name of Jesus, I pray,

Amen

Prayer for Marriages
By Minister Danielle N. Hall
The Senior Connection

God of Unity, we lift You high and declare that You are the greatest in all the earth. You set both the foundation of and the order in the world.

When You set the foundation of the earth and created man, You said that it is not good for man to be alone. You, from Adam's rib, made a woman named Eve. You blessed this union, gave them dominion and the instructions to be fruitful and multiply. Here we are, generations later, a product of Your creation and a union that You ordained.

I pray now for every union that You have designed. May they be fortified by ascribing to Your order and by being obedient. Just as Christ is the head of the church, let every husband be the head of his wife. May every husband properly posture his heart to submit to You, setting the example for the submission of his wife to him. Let him not abuse this position of authority, but may he model his behavior after Christ who fully submitted to the will of the Father and yet had authority.

May both the husband and wife be slow to speak and slow to anger, yet swift to hear according to Your Word. May You grant newlyweds the grace to make it over the hump of the moment after the honeymoon when reality sets in. When the novelty of the ceremony has worn off, grant them staying power.

For the seasoned unions, grant them renewed joy and desire. For the strained marriages, be their peace and may each party draw closer to You so they may draw closer to one another. Grant a fresh perspective. Remind them of how You forgave the unforgivable in us. Grant them a heart that forgives. Eradicate abusive thoughts and behaviors. Grant them words and ways that will heal and construct, not destruct and destroy. May agape love abound in their hearts and homes.

Marriage is beautiful in Your sight and can bring You glory when executed right. I speak restoration to repairable damage, removal of destructive ways and renewal of vows.

In Jesus Name,

Amen

Let's Eat – Cake Recipe

Butter Pecan Cake



Butter Pecan Cake is moist, light, and nutty and topped with an irresistible cream cheese frosting! It is sure to delight all of the butter pecan lovers in your life. Make it for fall, special occasions, or just because!

PREP TIME	CHILL TIME	COOK TIME
30 mins.	30 mins.	40 mins.

Ingredients

For the Cake:

1¼ cups and 3 tablespoons unsalted butter softened and divided (325g)
1½ cups chopped pecans (180g)
4¼ cups all-purpose flour (540g)
2½ teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
¾ teaspoon baking soda
2½ cups granulated sugar (500g)
5 large eggs room temperature
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1¼ cup buttermilk room temperature (300ml)

For the Buttercream:

1½ cups unsalted butter softened (340g)
2 (8-ounce/227g) blocks cream cheese room temperature
¼ teaspoon salt
7 cups powdered sugar (840g)
1 tablespoon heavy cream
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ cup toasted pecans finely chopped (60g)

Directions

1. In a skillet over medium heat, melt 3 tablespoons of butter. Add chopped pecans and cook, stirring occasionally, until toasted, 5 to 8 minutes. Transfer the toasted nuts to a small bowl and let cool completely.
2. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease 3 (9-inch) round cake pans with baking spray and line the bottoms with parchment paper. Wrap with water-soaked fabric baking scrrips, if desired.
3. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.

4. In a large mixing bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat the remaining 1¼ cups butter and granulated sugar together until light and fluffy, 3 to 4 minutes.
5. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating until combined between each addition. Stop to scrape down sides as needed. Beat in the vanilla.
6. With the mixer on low speed, add a third of the flour mixture followed but half of the buttermilk. Repeat, alternating between the flour mixture and buttermilk until both are fully combined. Stop to scrape down the bowl occasionally. Fold in the cooled buttered pecans until evenly distributed. Divide the batter among the prepared cake pans.
7. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until a wooden pick inserted into the center comes out with just a few crumbs. Let the cakes cool for 20 minutes in the pans. Invert onto cooling racks, remove the parchment paper, and let the cakes cool completely.

For the Buttercream:

1. In a large mixing bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter, cream cheese, and salt together on medium speed until creamy and well combined, about 1 minute.
2. With the mixer on low speed, gradually add the powdered sugar. Stop occasionally and scrape down the bowl. Beat in the cream and vanilla. Once combined, increase the speed to medium-low and beat until smooth and fluffy, about 1 minute.

For the Assembly:

1. Place one cooled cake layer on a cake stand or serving plate. Top with 1 cup frosting, spreading smoothly out to the edges. Place another cake layer on top and repeat with 1 cup of frosting. Top with the final cake layer, and spread the remaining frosting all over the top and sides of the cake. Press finely chopped pecans around the bottom of the cake, and sprinkle any remaining on top of the cake around the edge. Chill for 30 minutes to set the frosting before serving. Cake can be covered and stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 5 days.

Recipe by: *Preppy Kitchen*

Greater Saint John Cathedral

Bishop Kevin V. Gresham Sr., Senior Pastor

GREATER CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DAYCARE CENTER

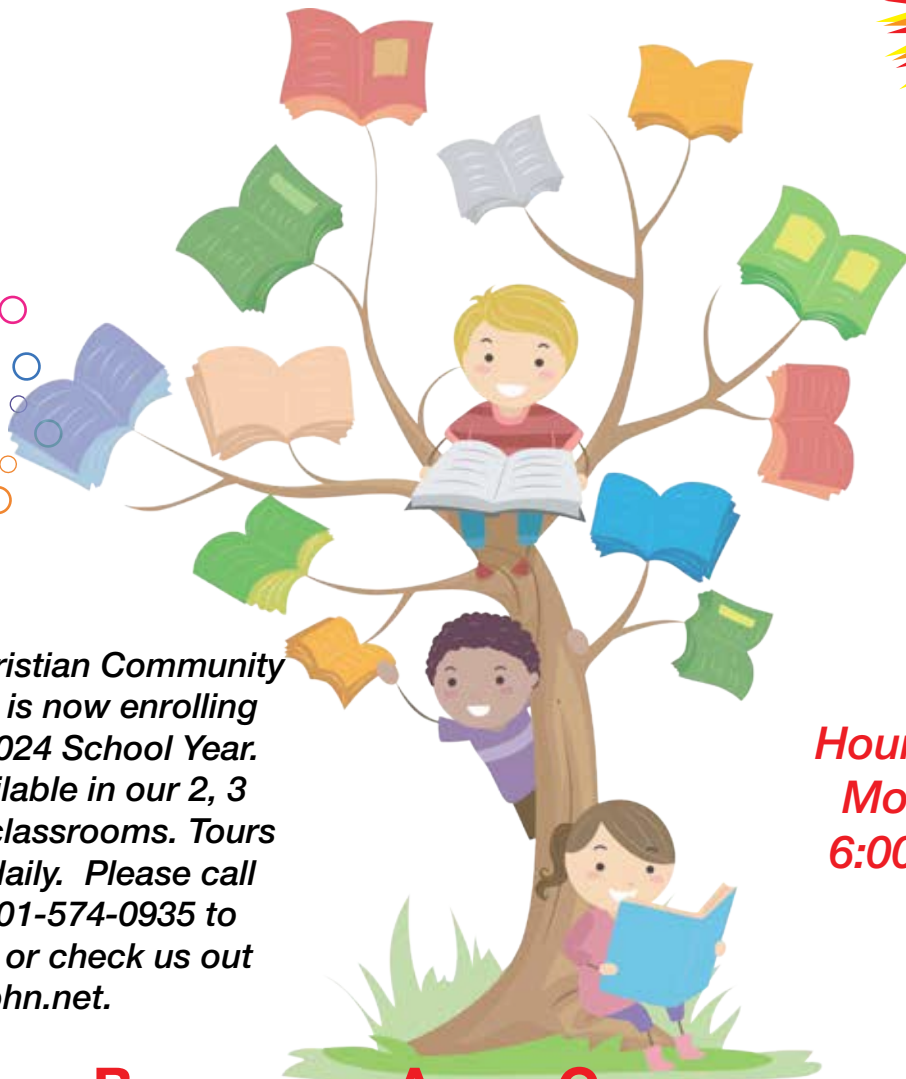
CARING FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 YEARS OLD THROUGH 5 YEARS OLD

MSDE LICENSED CENTER



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Now!**



The Greater Christian Community Daycare Center is now enrolling for our 2023 - 2024 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.

**Hours of operation:
Monday ~ Friday
6:00am to 6:00pm**

BEFORE AND AFTER CARE PROVIDED

**NON-REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE: \$75.00 FOR 1 CHILD
10% DISCOUNT FOR TWO SIBLINGS AND 15% FOR THREE OR MORE
BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND SNACK PROVIDED**

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Phone: 301.574.0935 • 301.574.5160 (fax)



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11425 OLD MARLBORO PIKE, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772**



Fresh START PRAYER CALL

TUESDAYS
6:00AM



Join our Google Classroom to Get Connected!
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THE **ACT** INITIATIVE WITH
BISHOP KEVIN V. GRESHAM SR.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." - Jeremiah 29:11

#OFFENSENOTDEFENSE #ATTACKINGCANCERTOGETHER #FIGHTLIKEA CONQUEROR

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The **A.C.T. Initiative** (Attacking Cancer Together) is continuing to intercede on behalf of those suffering from cancer; cancer survivors; caregivers; family members of cancer patients and those who support them. If you would like to be included on the prayer list, please use the link shown to complete the form. Information is on our website at saintjohn.net. This prayer opportunity is open to everyone. Please ensure the office has contact information for anyone on the prayer list who wants to receive personal prayer and wellness checks.

PRAYER PRAISE & STUDY LIVESTREAM



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On Tuesdays @ 7pm
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TRANSFORMING Marriages THROUGH PRAYER

STRONGER TOGETHER MARRIAGE MINISTRY
Prayer Call with Bishop Gresham

WEDNESDAYS | 6AM
After the First Sunday

https://bit.ly/marriedcouples_prayercall



VIA
GOOGLE
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VIRTUAL

Sunday School

ADULT CLASS

8am - 8:45am

REGISTRATION

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Senior Connection

Calling All

Seniors (young at heart) are invited to join us on Thursdays at 12 noon for prayers, testimonies, and a sermonette.

The call-in number is 712-432-0190
access code 274522#.

GREATER SAINT JOHN CATHEDRAL

Senior CONNECTION ONLINE GATHERING

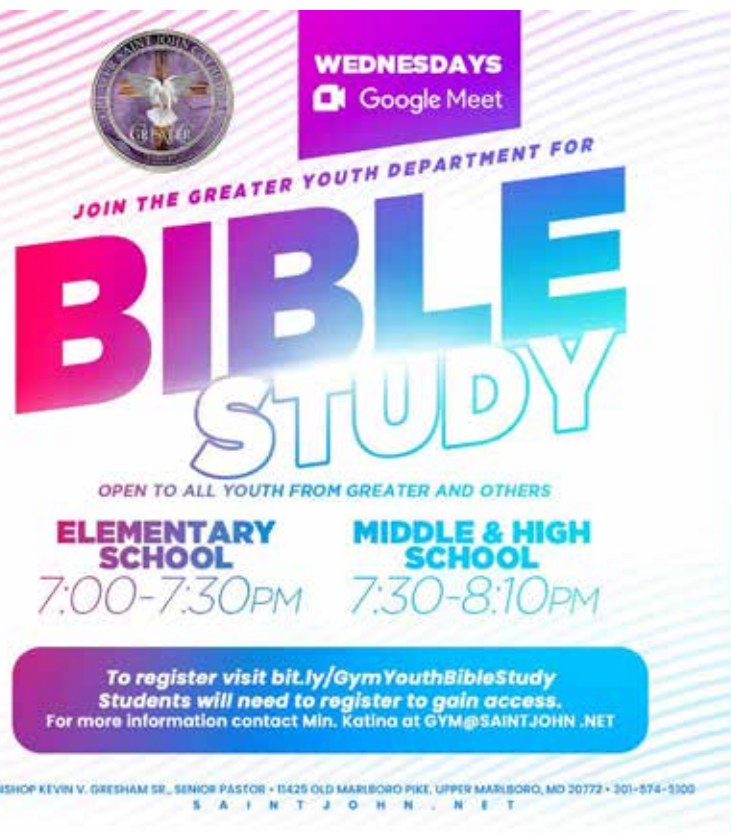
THURSDAYS AT 12NOON

*All seniors (young at heart) are invited
to join us for prayer, testimonies and a sermonette*

DIAL 712-432-0190 ACCESS CODE: 274522#

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S A I N T J O H N C A T H E D R A L

Please join the **F.A.M. Young Adult Ministry** for our monthly prayer call at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesdays, featuring our own **Bishop Kevin V. Gresham Sr.** The call-in number is (712) 432-0190 and the access code is 274522#. Mark your calendars and set your alarms! You do not want to miss out on prayer with our Bishop!



Join our **Greater Youth Ministry's Bible Study** on Wednesday nights. Elementary from 7:00pm-7:30pm, Middle & High from 7:30pm-8:10pm, please register your youth at **google meet**. Please click on the link: <https://bit.ly/gymYouthBibleStudy>. This bible study is open to Greater Youth as well as others. Please feel free to contact **Minister Katina** if you have any questions at: gym@saintjohn.net.

Women's Prayer Call

Join us for our

Women's Prayer Call on Thursdays at 6am.
The call-in number is 712-432-0190 access code 274522#.



Global Men's Prayer Call

Join us on

Fridays at 6am for the Men's Prayer Call.
Please use your phone to scan the QR code
or click on the following link to join our
Google Classroom to get Connected!



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How May I Assist You?*



Greater Saint John Cathedral

Bishop Kevin V. Gresham Sr., Senior Pastor

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**. **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

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!

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.

Greater Saint John Cathedral

Bishop Kevin V. Gresham Sr., Senior Pastor

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

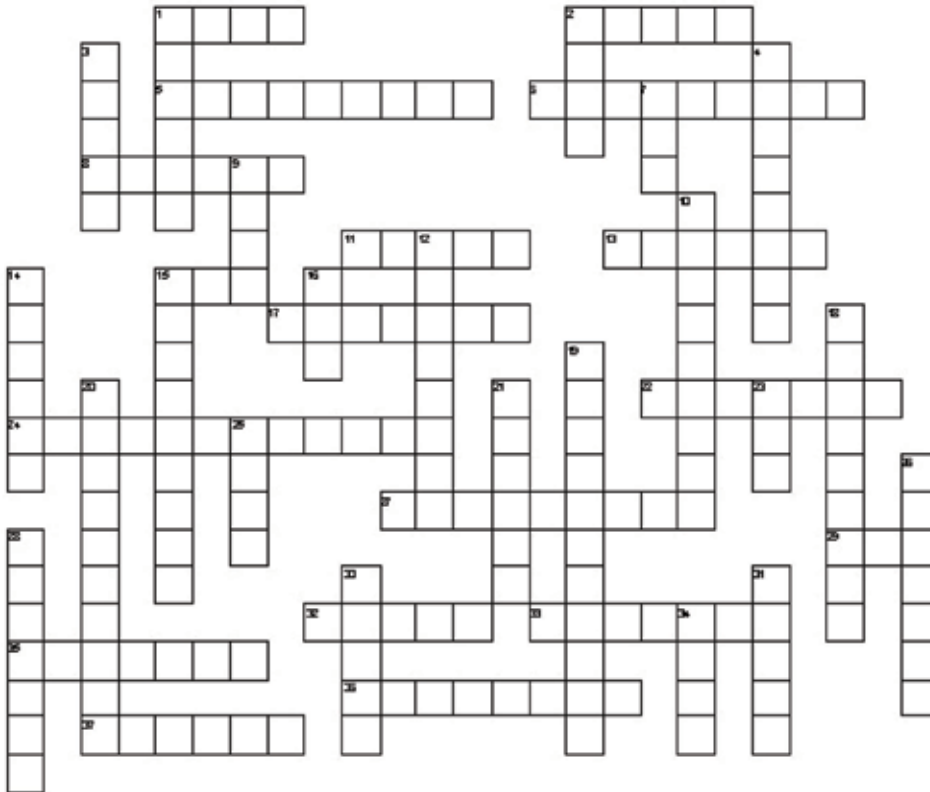
SHARE MINISTRY



The **Share Team** is in need of many “**Angels**” to help our church’s disciples and community. 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. **We thank you in advance!**

FUN ZONE

Merry Christmas!



ACROSS

- 1 The mother of Christ.
- 2 People often mail these to friends and acquaintances.
- 5 Santa's home and workshop are located here.
- 6 Traditional red-and-white-striped candy.
- 8 Santa's vehicle.
- 11 A Christmas song.
- 13 _____ Christmas.
- 15 If you _____ a live Christmas tree, you must throw it out after the holidays.
- 17 A treat commonly left for Santa.
- 22 They followed a star to find the Christ child.
- 24 The night before Christmas.
- 27 Decorations commonly hung on trees.
- 29 The color of Rudolph's nose.
- 32 _____ Claus.

33 Kris _____.

35 A "door" for Santa.

36 St. _____.

37 These electric decorations were introduced as a safe replacement for candles on Christmas trees.

DOWN

- 1 Baby Jesus had this for a bed.
- 2 Naughty children may find a lump of this in their stockings.
- 3 "not a creature was stirring, not even a _____."
- 4 People who go door to door singing Christmas songs.
- 7 If you _____ a live Christmas tree, you may plant it after the holidays.
- 9 Another word for present.
- 10 These should be hung by the chimney with care.
- 12 The animals that travel with Santa.
- 14 Christmas Eve services are held here.

15 "I'm dreaming of a white _____."

16 A colorful decoration often added to the top of a package.

18 Angels announced Jesus' birth to these people.

19 These spicy holiday cookies are often shaped as people.

20 This type of Christmas tree may be used year after year.

21 A round object often hung on a door.

23 A small person who helps Santa.

25 Santa's preferred beverage.

26 He guided Santa's sleigh one foggy Christmas Eve.

28 String this to decorate the Christmas tree.

30 Old _____ Nicholas.

31 _____ Christmas!

34 One of the three gifts the wise men brought to the Christ child.

Solution for Crossword Puzzle on page 34

FUN ZONE





Mark Your Calendars EVENTS



January

- 1st – Happy New Year
- 7th-28th – 21-Day Daniel Fast
- 23rd – Prayer, Praise & Study Resumes
- 24th – Youth Bible Study Resumes

February

- 10th – Seniors Luncheon
- 11th – Seniors Appreciation Sunday
- 24th – Bishop Gresham’s Birthday

March

- 10th – Daylight Savings Time begins
- 10th – 61st Church Anniversary
- 24th – Palm Sunday
- 29th – Good Friday
- 31st – Resurrection Sunday

THEME FOR 2024



Think on This:

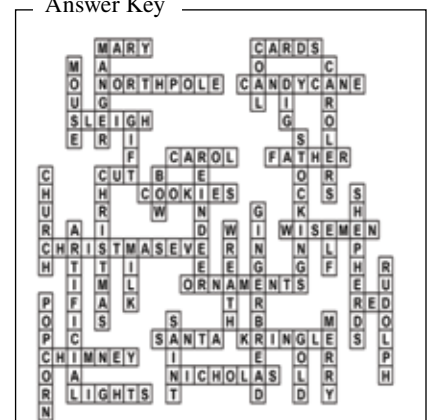
Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that. — *Martin Luther King Jr.*

In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years. —*Abraham Lincoln*

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. — *Dr. Seuss*

The only impossible journey is the one you never begin. — *Tony Robbins*

Answer Key



WAYS TO **give**

IN-PERSON
OR MAIL-IN



PAYPAL

GIVELIFY

CASH APP



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Greater Saint John Cathedral

BISHOP KEVIN V. GRESHAM SR.

LADY DENISE GRESHAM

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COMMUNION SERVICE
FIRST SUNDAY EACH MONTH

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAYS VIA ZOOM

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 7:00PM - 7:30PM MEETING ID: 736-7333-6219 PASSWORD: 094494	MIDDLE + HIGH SCHOOL 7:30PM - 8:10PM MEETING ID: 784-6981-6376 PASSWORD: 077172
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SENIOR CONNECTION
THURSDAYS AT 12 NOON
CALL IN 712-432-0190 | ACCESS CODE 274522#
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT GREATER@SAINTJOHN.NET

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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.