

The Shield



FALL 2021

A PUBLICATION OF SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

SOCIAL JUSTICE

RED BEANS AND RICE MONDAYS

BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

We Are Shiloh:



THRIVE PODCAST

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

UTILITY AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE

SUMMER YOUTH ENRICHMENT

Persevering through the Pandemic

SCHOLARSHIPS

PROVIDING A SPACE FOR COVID TESTING AND VACCINATIONS

SHILOH'S EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

WEEKLY PRAYER EMPHASIS

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church organized in 1872

Greetings to all!

This issue of THE SHIELD is filled with testimonials on how GOD has sustained us as a Church through more than 24 months of a global pandemic.

There have been difficult days, loss of loved ones, uncertainty, and strife, pandemic or not. However, through God's grace, Shiloh has persevered in doing the work of practical ministry with willing believers through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We know that worship is a daily ritual for most believers, individually and in groups. Shiloh's worship experiences have proven that the challenges of the pandemic are no match for our ministry work, prayer lives, and praise/worship experiences.

During this final month of the year, celebration of Christmas typically means large gatherings of family and friends. God's wisdom and guidance to help us remain safe will be ours when we ask Him.

THE SHIELD staff dedicates this issue in loving memory of the late staff reporter, Sis. LaShawn Burns; the late video reporter, Bro. Charles Fuller; and a former staffer in the newsletter early years, the late Sis. Geraldine "Gerri" Freeman John-Louis. We miss them and thank God for allowing us to have time with each.

Praising God to the HIGHEST, THE SHEILD's Staff

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THE SHIELD is published by the members of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church as a source of Christian outreach, witness, and communication.

The Shield

Mask Wearing and Social Distancing, as well as Vaccinations Don't Have to Keep Us From Worshipping and Praising God



Shiloh's Prayer Line, which began Friday, March 20, is conducted by Pastor Fred Jeff Smith at 6:05 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call (425) 436-6377 and enter the code: 337747.

The Prayer-by-Phone is offered at 6 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday led by the Rev. Emanuel Smith, Minister of Community Outreach, and Minister Rodney Johnson. Also call (425) 436-6377 and enter the code: 337747.



Shiloh's Livestream has expanded offering 8 a.m and 11 a.m. Sunday Worship Experiences, Sunday School lessons immediately after 8 a.m. Worship, as well as Wednesday noon day and evening Bible Studies to be viewed via www.vimeo.com/shilohbr, Shiloh's Facebook page, and YouTube.

Shiloh Talk Back Zoom Meetings: The Rev. Demetria Jones-Smith, Minister of Christian Education, invites you to a discussion of the most current weekly prayer emphasis, at noon on Thursdays. Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81042159739?pwd=Uk5jbDISYIBOWHJIVUhQNIYzbTBFZz09>
Meeting ID: 810 4215 9739
Passcode: 819048

For other church announcements, consult Shiloh's video announcements with host, Sis. Kenyetta Collins, premiering each Sunday at www.vimeo.com/shilohbr.



Pastor Fred Jeff Smith believes: "Doing what we have always done simply because we've always done it cannot be the mantra for a relevant, purposeful congregation of Christian believers poised to serve the present age, which Shiloh is and will continue to be under my tenure."

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A PUBLICATION OF
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

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FALL 2021 • VOL. XXXVI, No. 1

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9 THREE MEMBERS SHARE STORIES of pausing, pressing on, and praising God during difficult times. Their inspirational testimonies published here will warm your hearts.

13 REV. DEMETRIA JONES-SMITH sends the first in a series of what she calls "Postcards from Seminary: A Journey Through Theological Rediscovery." These writings come from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where the Rev. Jones-Smith is pursuing the Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). She prays that her journey will inform The SHIELD'S readers and that God blesses each to grow and become transformed together.

INSIDE BACK COVER SHILOH C.A.R.E.S. Ministry describes the mutual benefits of checking on Senior members.

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14 Days of Prayer and Fasting address the myriad of conditions facing our world; Red Beans and Rice Crew recognized for helping to serve more than 44 thousand complimentary meals in an outreach effort to those in need; Shiloh Ministry members show dedication to on-going relief assistance; Nine Summer Youth Enrichment Program participants created their own business plans; *and more.*

SPIRITUAL MATTERS • Page 19

Columnist Ruby M. Williams presents the Ps and Qs of life as shared with her during quality time spent with the Lord. These revelations may astound and mesmerize you as they did the writer, however, readers should then be prepared for a stronger spiritual life.

SHILOH IN THE COMMUNITY & BEYOND • Page 21

Shiloh deacon recognized as "Best Lawyer of the Year," Sis. Jacqueline Nash Grant appointed by Gov. John Bel Edwards to the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund Board of Directors, Min. Patsy Wilkerson honored as a Silver Magnolia for her trailblazing community service, *and more.*



PRAISE GOD!! Virtual worship experiences, Sunday School for all ages, Bible Study, video announcements, podcasts, and prayer lines; outreach to the homeless; child care; vocational training; scholarship awards; social justice and health initiatives; and more are discussed in this issue. Pastor Fred Jeff Smith; church staff; media team; ministries; church members and volunteers, and most of all the blessings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Shiloh continues God's work in the vineyard during the challenges of the pandemic.



From Pastor Fred Jeff Smith

Time for sober contemplation on what Shiloh's future will look like after the pandemic

Sometime next year, Shiloh will turn 150 years old. We say, “sometime” because a review of early Church documents reveals that our Anniversary wasn't always celebrated in August, as it is now. We thank God for how he has blessed this congregation over the past century and a half.

Organized in 1872, by a Virginia Missionary named George Byrd, Shiloh is one of the oldest Baptist churches of our city. But age is not the only thing that is noteworthy about our Church. As with all things spiritual, quality is far more important than quantity. And by the measure of spiritual quality—adherence to the Gospel mandates of loving service, nurture and outreach—Shiloh ranks as high on the spiritual scale of quality that one could rank.

But in our 150th year, this is a time for sober contemplation on what our future will look like. Since March 22, 2020, Shiloh has been in some form of shut-down due to the pandemic. Corporate worship, Christian Education, and Ministry meetings have been virtual for the protection and safety of our members and the community that we serve. When the COVID numbers have leveled off and it is safe for us to gather again, what will Shiloh look like?

Our Early Learning Center has continued to operate throughout the pandemic, only experiencing brief closure at the start of the shutdown. We can be proud of the fact that Shiloh provides safe, quality child care at reasonable prices for parents who have need of such services. But when the COVID protocols are lifted and we are back at full capacity, what will that look like?

Community outreach has thrived. For more than

16 months, Shiloh fed people with complimentary lunches one day each week, as our contribution to the relief of hunger. Monthly, our Brotherhood and Sisterhood ministries work cooperatively to feed and provide toiletries and clothing for the homeless.

Our Charitable Foundation continues to extend itself through successful collaborations with community organizing groups to meet the pressing human needs of food, shelter, and clothing. But the Foundation has also labored to keep us informed and involved in matters of equity and justice. As we work to remain relevant and purposeful both within our congregation and before the larger Baton Rouge community, what does that look like?

When considering Church life in total, one thing that is becoming increasingly clear to me is that models must be willing to undergo modification to maintain their efficacy. It is no longer acceptable—from the standpoint of stewardship of time, talent, and treasure—to blindly follow traditional paths and maintain affiliations with traditional organizations, if those institutions are unwilling to shift to a place of relevance.

Certainly, many of these entities were suspect before the pandemic, but COVID has exposed a revealing truth: Associations and conventions—local, state, and national; denominational and ecumenical—that are not committed to pursuing the social justice ministry of Jesus Christ should not be the beneficiaries of blind, deaf, and muted support by this Church, or any congregation that is committed to utilizing its resources to minister to the needs of hurting people.

Associations and conventions...that are not committed to pursuing the social justice ministry of Jesus Christ should not be the beneficiaries of blind, deaf, and muted support by this Church, or any congregation that is committed to utilizing its resources to minister to the needs of hurting people.

Shiloh is a Church with a history of giving to the needy. We should establish relationships and actively support entities that have a thrust toward helping the needy.

Shiloh is a Church with a history of practical service—Day Care, Youth Enrichment programs, Scholarship programs, Bargain Center, Academic Camps, to name a few. We should establish relationships and actively support entities that have similar thrusts.

Shiloh is a Church with a history of quality Christian Education offerings—Sunday School, Midweek Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, and specialized seminars. We should establish relationships and actively support entities with innovations that can enhance our Christian education offerings.

To get the most out of a 21st century, post-pandemic local congregation, we must exercise the same stewardship on a congregational level that we encourage our members to exercise in their own personal lives.

While Shiloh is quite successful in the way of human and financial resources, we must be prudent in how those resources are utilized. The purpose of the Church is to pool our resources to do the work of Christ—evangelism, discipleship, and ministry. Proper allocation and diligence to the task are very important to accomplishing that purpose.

I am very much a traditionalist when it comes to the life of the Church. But doing what we have always done simply because we've always done it cannot be the mantra for a relevant, purposeful congregation of Christian believers poised to serve the present

age, which Shiloh is and will continue to be under my tenure.

Jesus taught that it is wasteful to place new wine in old wineskins (Matthew 9:14-17). The likelihood is that the skins will burst because they cannot survive the process of fermentation, and the wine will be lost. This is not only true theologically, but it is also true practically.

As we go through this continuing process of fermentation, our wineskin must be elastic enough to stretch to accommodate the changes that are taking place. Our theology must stretch to incorporate true agapè—love of everyone, without restriction.

Our theology must stretch to embolden our response to injustice and human marginalization. Our theology must stretch to deepen our resolve to speak truth to power with fervor and consistency. Our theology must stretch to meet the challenges of systemic abuses by employing the Gospel in radical ways of love and service.

While some think about the future of the Church solely in terms of the quality of the corporate worship experience—which is important—beyond what takes place on Sunday, Shiloh must be ready to embrace the challenges of Monday thru Saturday, the lives that people live away from the sanctuary.

Here's to the future!

“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse.

“Neither do people pour new wine in old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.

--- (Matthew 9:16-17)

2021 Shiloh Scholars Persevere Through Pandemic's Challenges Thanking God

by Sis. Joan Turner

BRATING OUR GRADUATES 2020



SHILOH MBC

Congratulations to the 2021 Shiloh Scholarship recipients who have faced numerous challenges because of the pandemic and persevered!

Since 1975, Shiloh has been awarding scholarships to young people through a competitive awards program and recognizing the accomplishments of all graduates on their educational and vocational attainments. The 2021 Shiloh Scholars share how church members have helped them develop a relationship with God and instilled in them a greater sense of His power and love. The Church's teachings have motivated them to seek higher goals and aspirations.

Shelton Dennis Blunt II



Shiloh's \$8,000 Super Scholarship recipient Shelton Dennis Blunt II is the son of Deacon Shelton and Sis. Valerie Blunt.

Shelton is a 2021 graduate of University Laboratory High School (LSU), where he was a member of the UHS Student Council, UHS Black Student Union, National Spanish Honor Society, and the UHS Track Team. From 2005-2021 he was a member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Awards he has garnered include the HU Achievers Scholarship –Howard University (2020), Academic Scholarship –Baylor University (2020), and the Academic Scholars Resident Scholarship –LSU (2021).

Shelton is enrolled at Howard University this fall.

Shelton joined Shiloh in April of 2011 and has been an active participant in the Sunday School and Drama Ministry, and was a Junior Usher.

According to the young scholar, Shiloh has been his refuge for as long as he can remember.

"Shiloh, as my church home, has been the place where I found peace, love, and spiritual renewal. Shiloh is also where I learned to give through service to Christ," Shelton said.

"The past several years have been very difficult for African Americans. After the tremendous service of President Barack Obama, our country took a hard turn back towards its racist origins with the election of its forty-fifth president.

"The nation's moral and political shift created a difficult climate for me as an African-American male who attended predominantly white institutions since kindergarten. In addition, we endured a global pandemic with virtual classes and the police murder of George Floyd and a host of other unarmed African Americans.

"However, through it all, Shiloh has been a beacon providing the message of salvation through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. While dealing with these environmental difficulties, Shiloh was always my constant refuge in a world of variables," he said.

"Shiloh helped me control the difficult emotions that could have consumed me given all that we have endured over the past few years. As a part of Shiloh's Sunday School, I learned of God's grace and mercy and to be merciful in my interactions with others.

"Shiloh taught me to lean and depend on the only one who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

"I will always cherish my Shiloh family and the lessons learned at my church home."

2021 Shiloh's Scholars continued

Kelsea Stewart



Shiloh's \$5,050 1st-Place Scholarship recipient Kelsea Stewart is the daughter of Bro. Elgin and Sis. Latonia Stewart.

Kelsea is a 2021 graduate of Baton Rouge Magnet High School, where she was a member of the French Club (2017-2020) and the Radio Training program (2019-2021). She also received the "We are the Children" Extravaganza Sisterhood award in 2019. Kelsea plans to attend Louisiana State University in the fall of 2021.

Kelsea joined Shiloh in February of 2018 and has been an active participant in the Sunday School, as well as Drama and Youth ministries.

When asked how the church is or has been an influential factor in your life? Kelsea stated: "As I saw the ushers descend the aisle, I noticed the keenness in their eyes to welcome all adrift individuals into the fellowship of God and his church.

"I was hesitant at first, as I wasn't sure if it was my true calling, but once I looked around and heard the harmonious church, I knew that this was my genuine home coming to God.

"I looked at my Grandma beside me and quickly recited Philippians 4:13 as I went to sit in the first pew. A few happy tears fell from my eyes as I felt this sudden exuberance in my heart," she said.

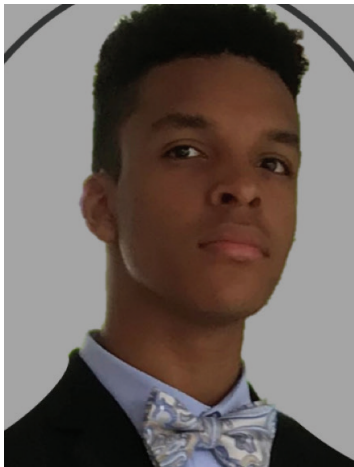
Kelsea is confident that she was ready to begin her journey to baptism and the restoration that changed her life completely.

"From the rejuvenated moment to now, many church teachings I have learned from many Sunday school and past bible study sessions have helped and alleviated me," she said.

The most important things this young Christian has learned and that she will apply throughout her life are: "If God doesn't do it, it just won't get done" and "put it in God's hands."

"These two little sayings, with the words and readings of God, have shown me that God is and will always be my friend when needed, a shoulder to cry on, and even a light I can hold on to when the tunnel seems to be too dark," she said.

Darwin Bergeron Jr.



Shiloh's \$4,900 2nd-Place recipient Darwin Bergeron Jr., is the son of Bro. Darwin and Sis. Talya Bergeron.

Darwin is a 2019 graduate of Central High School and is currently enrolled at Louisiana State University, where he is a member of Kappa Kappa Psi (2021) and received the Band Manager Award (2020-2021).

Darwin joined Shiloh in August of 2018 and he has been an active participant in Sunday School.

When asked about the ways he feels the church has influenced his life this is what Darwin had to say, "Throughout the years, I have had challenges on my journey as a Christian. The fear of missing assignments, losing loved ones, and racism had me confused about my life."

"I would ask myself, why do these things happen? "Why must people we know have to pass away?" "Why do police officers discriminate against black people?" "Why does it feel like school or college is pitted against me?"

"These questions and more often circled my mind at times when I forget what I know about the Lord and his power. Whenever I'm surrounded by fellow Christians in the house of God, I am reminded about how great the Lord is. He has a plan for all of us and we do not have to hold on to fear. Instead, we can in Him because, like the pastor says, "HE IS ABLE."

"The Lord is able to bring us out of the tunnels of hardship we may face in our lives. Going to Shiloh gives me the Lord's word and the sermon feels like it is always covering something I am going through at the time. When I am away from the church it is harder to understand the problems I face," he confesses.

"Going to Sunday School is also helpful because I sit with people around my age and discuss the Lord."

SHILOH/DUMAS Scholarship Recipients 2021



Roshad Charles
Madison Preparatory
Academy



Marcus Roberts
Baton Rouge Magnet
High School



Allen Stewart
Episcopal High School

Roshad Charles, the son of Suzette Franklin and Roland Charles, is a 2021 graduate of Madison Preparatory Academy, where he was an active member of the Beta Club, Key Club, Theta NW Youth Fraternity, National Honor Society, MPA Media Team, Rho Kappa, Student Ambassador, and the Baton Rouge Youth Coalition.

School recognitions for Roshad include the 2020 Dean's List and Perfect Attendance 2020.

Roshad is a member of Friendship Chapel Baptist Church, where he has participated in the Youth Choir, Media team, Office staff, as well as Feed the Multitude and Missionary ministries.

As a young child, Roshad says he always dreamed of becoming a doctor. He plans to attend Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, to study biology in hopes of one day making it through medical school.

Marcus Roberts, the son of Edward and Brandi Roberts, is a 2021 graduate of Baton Rouge Magnet High School. At Baton Rouge High, Marcus was an active member of the Beta Club, DECA, National Honor Society, Law Club, Mock Trial, Distinguished Young Gentlemen, BR High Intramural Sports, and BR High Frisbee Club.

He is the recipients of the AP Scholar with Honors, 1st Place in State DECA – Hospitality (2021), Brotherhood Award (2021) and Brains and Brawn (2021), 1st Place in State DECA – Marketing (2021),

Marcus is a member of St. Jean Vianney Catholic Church, where he has been a Religious Education Helper and an usher.

He studies statistical Science and Public Policy at Duke University in the fall of 2021. The young Christian wants to pursue a career in sports analytics or a law-related profession.

Allen Stewart, the son of Vericha and Sterling Stewart, is a 2021 graduate of Episcopal High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society, EHS Football Team, Student Body President (2021), EHS Track and Field Team, Math Tutoring, EHS Powerlifting Team, President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Board (2021) and Student Ambassador (9th-12th grades).

Allen's scholastic and sports honors include All District 2nd Team (Football - 2020), Allie Miller Memorial Award (2021), English II Award (2015), Varsity Soccer Letterman (2015) and the Science is Fun (2015).

A member of Westgate Church, Allen participates with the New Image Youth Group and volunteers with the Youth Choir.

Allen attends Tulane University beginning in the fall of 2021 to study political science and business administration. He plans to pursue a Juris Doctorate and also a Master of Business Administration Degree, to become a lawyer while planning to run several business ventures.

GRADUATES 2021

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 2021

Shelton Dennis Blunt II
University Laboratory High School

Kenyell Caldwell
Madison Preparatory Academy

Allysan Josee Cleveland
Baton Rouge Magnet High School

Mason Charles Guy
Catholic High School

Kelsea Stewart
Baton Rouge Magnet High School

Dominique Wilson
Arlington Preparatory Academy

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE
Victoria Clark
Xavier University
Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication
with Minor in Creative Writing

Raymond C. Vincent
Morehouse College
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

MASTER'S DEGREE

John Gray
Louisiana State University
Master of Music Degree

Camille Vincent
Georgetown University
Master of Arts in Learning,
Design and Technology

Sis. Camille Vincent receives 2021 Charles & Winstonia McKesson Smith Memorial Scholarship



Charles and Winstonia McKesson Smith Memorial \$6,000 Scholarship recipient **Camille Vincent** is the daughter of Dr. Gregory Vincent and Sis. Leslie Brown-Vincent.

Camille is a May 2021 graduate of Georgetown University with a Master of Arts in Learning, Design and Technology. While attending Georgetown she was active with the Association of African American Museums Employment and Membership Committees, Georgetown Advisory Committee, and the Black Student Union.

Awards she garnered during her time at Georgetown include the Georgetown University Graduate Fellow, Learning, Design and Technology Scholarship and the National Trust of Historic Preservation Diversity Scholar.

Camille joined Shiloh in June of 2008 and has participated in the Food Ministry.

When asked how the church has been or is an influential factor in your life, Camille offers this explanation: "As I've connected with people across the country and worldwide, I've come to realize just how unique a church is. I once assumed that all churches were like ours - a refuge of friendship and community, centered on the

severe undertaking of hearing and obeying God's Word. Unfortunately, not all churches believe the foundation of God's Word is solid enough.

"I've seen churches go after fads and gimmicks - whatever might attract as many people as possible and be the best show. I've visited churches where lots of things are taken seriously - the structure of the church staff, or the production dynamics of the worship service, or the cultural relevance of the preaching - but where the faithful exposition of God's Word is not taken seriously at all. The result is frightening - starved Christians being served a diet of junk food.

"My pastor found a way to blend humor, wisdom, and theology that I hadn't really experienced like that before. He seemed like a real person versus a persona, and there was so much depth to what he spoke. It was this depth that caused me to want to discover the Word for myself truly, and that, more than anything, has changed my life."

Camille says, "I'm grateful that I can still sit in service 14 years later and feel the same enthusiasm for the messages spoken as I did when I first attended."



SHILOH SCHOLARS: Where Are They Now

Whitney Gabrielle Walker-Presley, a 2005 Shiloh Scholarship recipient, went on to attend Louisiana State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, a Master of Science in Educational Leadership, and an Education Specialist degree. Her passion for learning compelled her to pursue a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Leadership, with a focus on mathematics education in K-12 schools. She was accepted into the doctoral program at LSU in 2019, and is scheduled to graduate in December 2021.

Whitney currently contracts as a certified mathematics specialist, providing professional development opportunities to educators.

Le Doodle Organic Cotton Candy is a business that this enterprise conceived and developed out of her desire to reinvent the old pink and blue cotton candy so popular at carnivals. The company continues to thrive, and its services are booked through 2022. The journey of the business can be followed at www.ledoodleco.com

While Whitney has been blessed to enjoy a very rewarding professional career and a successful business venture, her proudest achievements are being a wife to her husband, Steven, and a mother to her son, Walker.

Whitney credits her successes and achievements to God and His unrelenting love and faithfulness.

Shiloh Does It Again



Shiloh volunteers worked with the medical community to organize clinics giving vaccine .

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church has always been known for making a positive impact on the Baton Rouge community. When Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) affected so many people, Shiloh stepped up to the plate.

The Reverend Jennifer Jones, Minister of Social Justice, summoned several warriors and began brainstorming how we could make a difference. In just one week a plan was devised to educate the community, secure vaccines, and implement change.

People across Baton Rouge and surrounding areas were informed about COVID 19, the symptoms, guidelines as provided by the CDC, and means of getting the vaccines. After making appointments for more than 205 persons to obtain vaccines at Our Lady of the Lake Medical Center (LOL) and Baton Rouge General (BRG), we realized we needed to reach more people. Our team collaborated with LOL, Southeast Community Health System, and the Department of Health and Hospital along with the National Guard to put on vaccine clinics at Shiloh.

A group of Shiloh volunteers worked with the medical community to organize six clinics giving vaccines to 893 persons. We continued to make appointments at LOL and BRG for 151 more persons.

Shiloh is proud to have played a part in 1,249 persons receiving vaccines, that is 2,498 vaccines administered. Sadly to say, at the writing of this article, only 35 percent of Louisiana's population has been fully vaccinated. Our work is not finished yet.

Vaccines are still available by calling LOL facilities at (225) 526-4600, BRG at (225) 763-4500 and most local pharmacies, Albertson, CVS, Walgreen, Walmart, and many independent pharmacies. With the Delta Variant on the rise, it is urgent that everyone age 12 and above take the vaccine, if possible.



Shiloh participating to Make a Difference.

Pausing, Pressing, and Praising God Through the Pandemic



Minister Patsy Wilkerson

As we look back over the past 18 months, we can use a variety of words to describe the pandemic period and how it impacted our lives. A few of those words are contained in the “word cloud” graphic below. I am certain you have additional words.

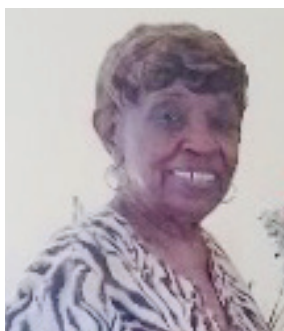
Many of us experienced the loss of loved ones due to COVID-19. Some of us experienced the pain of not being able to visit loved ones while in the hospital and nursing homes due to the visitation restrictions in these facilities.

Families were unable to gather for holiday and birthday celebrations. The lockdown grieved and saddened many of us. Grandparents were brokenhearted at the thought of not being able to see and hug their wonderful grandchildren. Others felt disconnected and alone as we remained in our homes to be safe. Those in our congregation were saddened at the realization of not being able to worship God and to fellowship together in our sanctuary.

Many experienced God moving in amazing and mysterious ways during the season of the pandemic. Some of our members experienced the awesome power of God as they journeyed through very difficult situations in their lives. Three of our members had an opportunity to pause, press through difficult situations, and experience a time of praise and giving glory to God for what He had done. We could have shared many stories here; however, we are sharing the testimonies from three of our members in this issue of *The Shield*.



Sis. Tracey Neldare



Sis. Lois Holloway



Sis. Mystique Price

Continued on next page

Comfort and Care Ministry continued

The Tracey Neldare Story

My name is Tracey S. Neldare, I am 52 years old, born and reared in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I've been a member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church since the age of 13.

My husband Tramelle-Trell and I were married here at Shiloh 30 years ago and have two adult children, Jordan and Hayley; and a handsome two-year-old grandson, Zahr.

My testimony began in April of 2020 after a breast self-examination, one of many I have performed. I felt a lump in my right breast.

Not making too much of it, I initially thought to myself, "I'll wait a few days to see what happens."

It was the beginning of the pandemic, in which the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was spreading rapidly. At that time, I was thinking Covid was a bigger threat to me than the lump, so I decided to try and wait until Covid was a bit more under control.

Well, after much thought and prayer, the Lord moved me. I woke up the next morning and told my husband, "I think I should make an appointment to have the lump examined."

Two days later I received a mammogram and had a biopsy done on the same day, while my husband sat in the car outside of the hospital. Days later I received the devastating news: I had breast cancer.

What followed was the most frightening conversation I had ever had in my life. My mind and my thoughts raced. I was very afraid and confused. I was diagnosed with Triple Negative Stage 3 Cancer.

My world had just been turned upside down, all I could think about was my family and quite frankly dying. Here I am during Covid, mandatory quarantine, and I have cancer.

I Paused:

The oncologist presented my treatment plan, which included chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation. And guess what? Because of Covid no one was allowed to accompany me to any of my treatments.

Fear had taken over my life. But it did so for maybe a week or a week and a half.

Prayer was already a big part of my life; however, at this point in my life prayer, became EVERYTHING! (every hour-everyday).

I Pressed:

God assured me that He would not leave me, He assured me that He would surround me with comfort,



strength, and love. He assured me that although I might walk in for treatment alone, I would never be alone. I believed what He said and from that point on I became strong and fearless.

With my family, friends, and even strangers who became my angels, I made it through five months of chemotherapy, a mediport surgery, a lumpectomy, three months of radiation, and cosmetic surgery.

I Praise God:

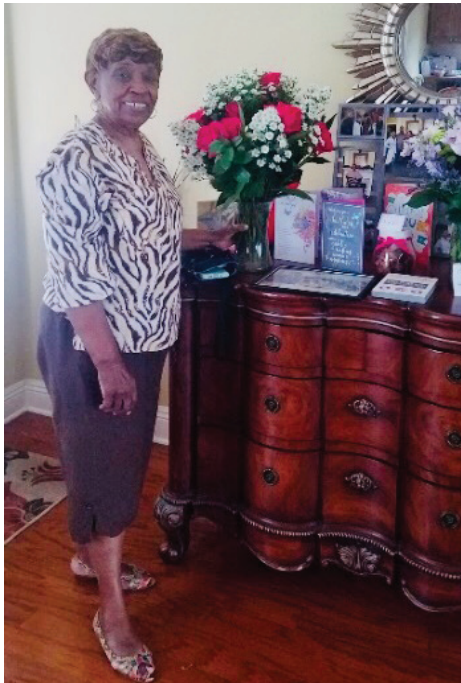
The Lois Holloway Story

I am not usually ill, and certainly not sick enough to need a lot of medical attention. I have not been in the hospital for at least 46 years, so I couldn't imagine the shock of being told by the doctor on a Thursday afternoon in February 2021, that I needed to go immediately to the Emergency Room!

As I stopped to catch my breath, the doctor continued to describe the blood clots in my left leg, which appeared life threatening.

I Paused:

While in the room waiting for the results of the tests, a team of doctors approached with unsettling news that I needed to remain in the hospital and have surgery on my left leg.



The Mystique Price Story

I Paused:

Things were being said that I just couldn't comprehend. Thank God, my sister, Audrey, was there with me and remained with me in the hospital, in ICU, for the next 7 days.

She prayed, I prayed, and many others called and offered prayer that calmed my mind and spirit. There were times when all I could say was, "Lord, have mercy."

I Pressed:

The get-well wishes and prayers from family, friends, church members, and others have really been a blessing to me over these past 6 months. I am so grateful!

I have learned or been reacquainted with what Jesus said to his followers in Matt. 6:25-34 (NIV).

Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?²⁶

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?²⁷

Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^a?

I had to submit my cares to Him and be assured that no matter what the circumstance, "He will come through."

All my dreams of how I wanted to celebrate my graduation, and even go to prom flew out the window. Due to the pandemic, I could not walk across the stage or welcome the people closest to me to my graduation.

I literally paid \$800 for a prom dress that I will never be able to wear. My senior moments faded into the wind, like ash and dust.

To make things even worse for me, before these things happened, my peers and I at Shiloh lost a very special friend, Christian Dunbar. His death literally shocked me, and it's safe to say I fell into a depression.

I Pressed:

I had to Pause and Press at the same time! That was so hard to get through.

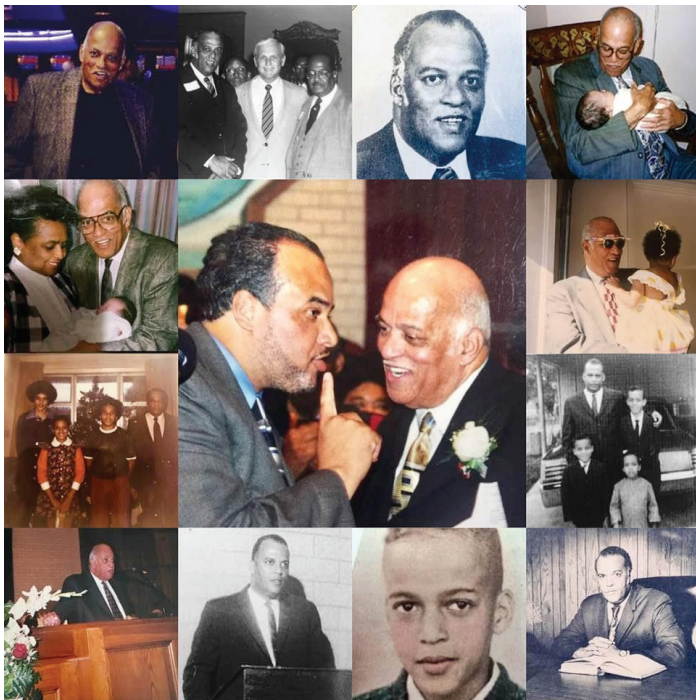
BUT with the favor of GOD, I was able to win the first-place scholarship here at Shiloh! My transition into college at Southern University started off shaky due to the pandemic, but now I'm in (my major classes) Nursing School.

I Praise God:

Since then, I have gotten an apartment and a car – all on my own in 2021, PRAISE GOD!

Continued on next page

Deceased Pastor remembered at 9/11



Pastor Charles T. Smith
May 26, 1932 - September 11, 2012

The 9/11 observance is a sobering day of remembrance for America and the world, but it holds a different, deeply personal meaning to Pastor Fred Jeff Smith. "It is the Anniversary of my father's passing," Pastor Smith explains.

Charles Turnbull Smith was a model Pastor, Preacher, Teacher, community leader, and ambassador for denominational and ecumenical work on all levels, most who knew would agree.

"He was a facilitator of Social Justice for the marginalized. He affirmed women Preachers before a hypocritical denomination that professed autonomy but wouldn't practice it," his son said.

He was perceptive, prepared, passionate, persistent and purposeful. He was also a good Dad.

He is loved, missed, respected, and appreciated.

Interested individuals can hear the dynamic messages from this outstanding preacher in "Sermons from the Vault," available now on YouTube.



Pastor Fred Jeff Smith had a great opportunity on The THRIVE Podcast to speak with EBR School Systems Superintendent Dr. Sito Narcisse and members of his administrative staff. Smith acknowledges that they talked about Hurricane Ida recovery, COVID-19 protocols, St. George, Charter Schools, media bias, and much more.

View/listen to The THRIVE Podcast, With the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church!

The purpose of the podcast is to provide an opportunity to address, in detail, the relevant issues of the day from a spiritual/theological perspective.

New podcasts every weekday. You may also view the video version on Shiloh's YouTube Channel.

The Amazon Music Streaming Service is now an additional way that you can pick up the THRIVE Podcast with the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. You can also share via iTunes, Spotify, or YouTube. New audio podcasts air each Monday and can be downloaded on iTunes.

View (YouTube, Facebook) and/or listen (iTunes, Spotify, Amazon Prime).
The THRIVE Podcast With
the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church.

Postcards From Seminary: *A Journey Through Theological Rediscovery*



Rev. Demetria Jones-Smith
Minister of Christian Education



As many of you know, God has providentially blessed me to return in-person to graduate school in pursuit of earning the Ph.D. degree in Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), and I am beyond excited!

Like a five-year-old child who anxiously anticipates the first day of kindergarten as a “big girl” or “big boy,” I approach this stage of my spiritual and academic journey with the wonderment of a first-time seminarian.

With pencils sharpened, highlighters in hand, and hot tea on standby—Earl Grey, hot with lemon and honey, of course—I wait for the Holy Spirit to unveil how every class discussion, book chapter, online post, or chapel service provides an opportunity for me and my fellow seminarians to be transformed, so we can, in turn, seek to become agents of transformation in a broken world.

And the Spirit never disappoints!

Daily I am transformed, renewed, and changed by the nuggets of wisdom that fall from the lips of my professors, like Dr. Reginald Blount, who teaches the doctoral-level seminar, *Approaches to Christian Education*.

As a full-time AME pastor and full-time seminary professor in practical theology and Christian education, Dr. Blount presses my class to consider the “why” of Christian education. He urges us to plumb the depths of our faith, personal experience, and religious contexts to arrive at a concrete, life affirming, definition of Christian education which emerges from the specific call God has on our lives.

Our “why” cannot just be, “because Jesus told us to do it.” It must go deeper. As Christian educators, Christian ministers, Christian leaders—and dare I say Christians—we are entrusted with the spiritual care and nurture of people who are wrestling to make sense of a world gone mad. We must go deeper, dig deeper, be willing to walk with people into the terrors of life—whatever they may be—to help them negotiate a difficult, dark, depressing world as people of faith, who are simply trying to live faithfully.

The “why” of Christian education is an attempt to answer the big questions of faith and human existence from a theological and spiritual perspective.

Continued on next page

Comfort and Care Ministry continued

These questions of identity, anthropology, theodicy, and integrity not only inform my “why” of Christian education, they must also inform the “why” of every Christian.

Ultimately, as Christians our individual and collective answers to “why” must flow from the One by whose name we are called. As Christians who affirm that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the Messiah, our big questions must be answered through the lens of Jesus—Mary’s Baby, Luke’s emancipatory liberator, John’s authentic,

abundant life—so all people can experience the freedom of the Gospel regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, class, ability, or sexual orientation.

As we allow the Holy Spirit to meet us as we wrestle with the “whys” of faith and life, we are transformed so we can, in turn, seek to become agents of transformation in a broken world.

And the Spirit never disappoints!

My dear Shiloh, as I write this Postcard from Seminary, I’m looking out the window of my dorm room. (Yes, at fifty-years-old I moved back on campus. I told you I am approaching this stage of my spiritual and academic journey as a first-time student, *LOL!*)

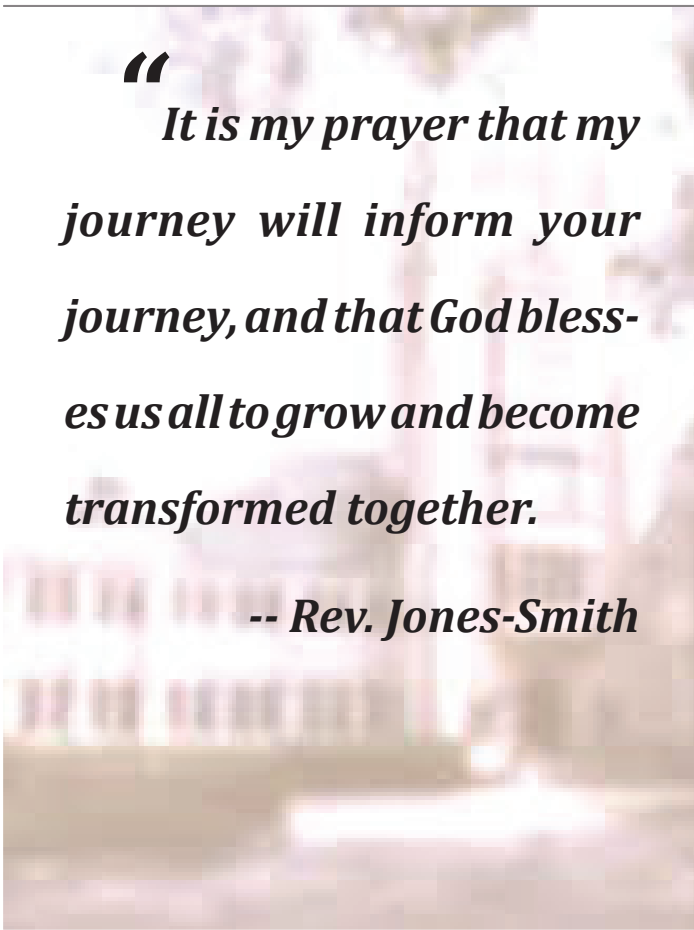
As I peer out of the window, I can see the hint of yellowish red beginning to paint the green leaves of a majestic maple tree that stands guard in the courtyard. It is bending, ever so slightly, from the breeze that wafts in from Lake Michigan less than a quarter of mile down the hill. I’d like to think of its journey as akin to mine.

I am returning to seminary to continue to expand, grow, learn, adapt, and transform for the journey that yet lies ahead. The tree is allowing itself to expand, grow, learn, adapt, and transform for the season that lies ahead. We’re both in the process of becoming and doing so in the context of a theological educational setting.

As I become over the years it will take me to earn the doctorate in Hebrew Bible, I vow to share the joys and the struggles, the triumphs, and the lessons, as I walk this path along the journey to theological rediscovery at Garrett/Northwestern.

It is my prayer that my journey will inform your journey, and that God blesses us all to grow and become

***Amen and Agape,
Demetria***



**“
It is my prayer that my
journey will inform your
journey, and that God bless-
es us all to grow and become
transformed together.**

-- Rev. Jones-Smith

AROUND THE CHURCH

14 days of Prayer and Fasting



Members of Shiloh and other interested persons participated in 14 days of Prayer and Fasting, Sunday, August 29-September 11, for the myriad of conditions facing our world.

There is a great deal for which we should pray, said Pastor Fred Jeff Smith, when making the activity announcement. The topics highlighted on each day are presented below. Participants, who engaged from 6 a.m. to noon each day, acknowledged that the experience strengthened their Christian resolve and faith.

Aug. 29, Sunday: For those facing natural disasters, including Hurricane Ida, Haiti recovery and wildfires.

Aug. 30, Monday: For those in the path of Hurricane Ida, for Haiti, for those dealing with wildfires. Also, pray for an end to voter suppression in our nation and passage of federal legislation that will ensure voter equity for all Americans.

Aug. 31, Tuesday: For recovery from natural disasters—flood, fire and earthquake. Prayers also were for COVID relief—vaccination, masking and social distancing, as well as for voter equity and justice.

Sept. 1, Wednesday: For electrical power to be restored to victims of Hurricane Ida, for the flood waters to recede and for people to be delivered to a place of safety. Also for God to impress on the hearts of those who are able to offer relevant assistance to those who are in need.

Sept. 2, Thursday: For those who are still being victimized by Hurricane Ida, as it continues up the eastern states of our nation. As well as for those who are dealing with raging and destructive wildfires in California and Nevada. For those recovering from earthquakes in Haiti and those struggling through COVID-19.

Sept. 3, Friday: For those who have been displaced by Hurricane Ida--those without power, those who have lost their homes and businesses. Also for those who are in medical distress and are without access to the facilities and the procedures necessary to improve the quality of their lives. For the strength of those who are serving to meet the needs of others who are hurting.

Sept. 4, Saturday: For continued restoration of power to those impacted by Hurricane Ida; for families that grieve today because of the loss of loved ones; for those who face government-sanctioned oppression and the loss of their human rights.

Sept. 5, Monday, Labor Day: *(Overall emphasis on needs during the pandemic.)*

Sept. 6, Tuesday: For those recovering from Hurricane Ida; for those in flux regarding COVID-19 mandates and vaccinations--particularly children and seniors; for those who are suffering from mental and emotional challenges that are being exacerbated by their current economic circumstances; for Churches and faith communities that are seeking ways to provide relevant and meaningful contributions to those who are overlooked and marginalized by our society.

Sept. 7, Wednesday: For those who have suffered the loss of loved ones--through illness, through violence, through natural causes, through calamity. We seek the power of the Paraclete to soothe their sorrow and provide comfort in their distress.

Sept. 8, Thursday: For prudence and wisdom to prevail in our response to COVID-19 and all of its variants--delta, lambda and mu. In fasting and prayer that our community--systems and individuals--will utilize the vaccines that are available, use masks, and practice social distancing.

Sept. 9, Friday: Seeking God's aid for an improvement in our nation's response to COVID-19. Nationally, more than 250,000 children became victims of COVID since the re-opening of schools. The Mu variant is of particular concern, as it has shown resistance to the current vaccines.

Sept. 10, Saturday: For victims of systemic abuse of law enforcement authority, which has been proven to be rampant within the Louisiana State Police Department. Also for the victims of senior abuse, most recently revealed by those who endangered seniors by warehousing them in toxic facilities.

Sept. 11, Sunday: On this last day of fasting and prayer, lifting up the needs of the marginalized and pledging ourselves to respond to them in the model of Christ. We are praying for Jesus' Church to live up to its charge--to practice the ethic of sacrificial love and service, with humility.

AROUND THE CHURCH



Special thanks go to **Sis. Seril Carrol** for her gift of 55 handmade dresses for distribution through our Tabitha Ministry!

Pastor Fred Jeff Smith said, “We thank God for talented and ministry-minded members!”

Shiloh’s Brotherhood and Sisterhood Ministries delivered 176 meals and 70 toiletry packets to the homeless on the first Saturday in September; 200 meals and 70 packets of toiletries to the homeless on the first Saturday in October; and 200 meals, 75 toiletry items, and 75 blankets on the first Saturday in November in the name of Jesus.

Doing the work of Christ in helping others is an on-going outreach service of these Christian brothers and sisters.



In appreciation of the “Red Beans and Rice Crew”

Appreciation and recognition were extended to the Shiloh “Red Beans and Rice Crew” volunteers who served a total of 44,326 complimentary Red Beans and Rice meals to the community on Mondays from April 24, 2020 to August 27, 2021.

An initial 250 meals per week quickly turned into more than 800+ meals served each week. By the final months of the outreach, the number had increased to more than 1,000. Pastor Fred Jeff Smith acknowledged Sis. Maxine Cormier, Bro. Mike Harrison and crew, Sis. Leslie Vincent, and Shiloh for this effort in “practical ministry.”



Shiloh’s Dedication to “Relief Assistance” is an on-going effort



Shiloh, through its Charitable Foundation, donated \$10,000, in addition to clothing and supplies, to aid victims of Hurricane Ida.

Pastor Fred J. Smith said he was asked if Shiloh was going to pivot away from Haiti Relief to respond to Hurricane Ida. The Pastor’s answer was, “Absolutely Not!!! We can do both. We must do both.”

The Rev. Jennifer Jones, who leads Shiloh’s Charitable Foundation, collaborated with other nonprofits to develop appropriate methods of response to the relief assistance.

At the end of September, Shiloh contributed \$10,000 to Haiti Relief. Shiloh is grateful to Dr. Angela Gooden, president of the Nu Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, along with Linda Piper, NGO Disaster Preparedness Committee Chair, and Felesha Jet, NGO Target 5 Global Impact Committee Chair, for their donation of 800 “brand new” school uniforms for the children of Haiti.

These activities and other on-going efforts show that Shiloh is dedicated to “Relevant, Meaningful, Purposeful Service, in the name of Jesus!”

Pivot to Virtual Jobsite Plan Is Highlight of 2021 Summer Youth Enrichment Program

Through virtual meetings with mentors, two weekly in-person program education development (PED) sessions at the church, nine participants in Shiloh's annual Summer Youth Enrichment Program created their own business plan.

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church with the Charitable Foundation Summer Youth Enrichment Program was a huge success for 2021 participants Melvin Ivan Britten IV, Caleb Davis, Kourtnei Hughes, A'nia Richard, A'maia Richard, Tieler Rollins, Gabrielle Williams, Dominique Wilson, and Saniya Young.

This year was the 31st year of the Charitable Foundation SYEP, which brought with it a different plan due to the pandemic. It included a pivot to virtual jobsite plan. Each student worked virtually and attended the PED sessions at the church on Thursdays and Fridays.

The 2021 PED presenters were Nayo Z. Andrews, Sis. Whitney Breaux, Lexi Britt, Bro. Melvin Britten Jr., Bro. Melvin "Ivan" Britten IV, Kimberly Chapman, Jarrett Cohen, Mark Grant, C.J. Griffen, Kaitlyn Joshua, Sis. Sherie Khadija, Sis. Mavis Lewis, Dr. Shelia Lewis, Bro. Ron Markham, Bro. Erik Parker, Stephen Pierre, Bro. Newton Thompson, Brandon Williams, Sis. Kasey Williams, Min. Patsy Wilkerson, and Dr. Sundee Winder.

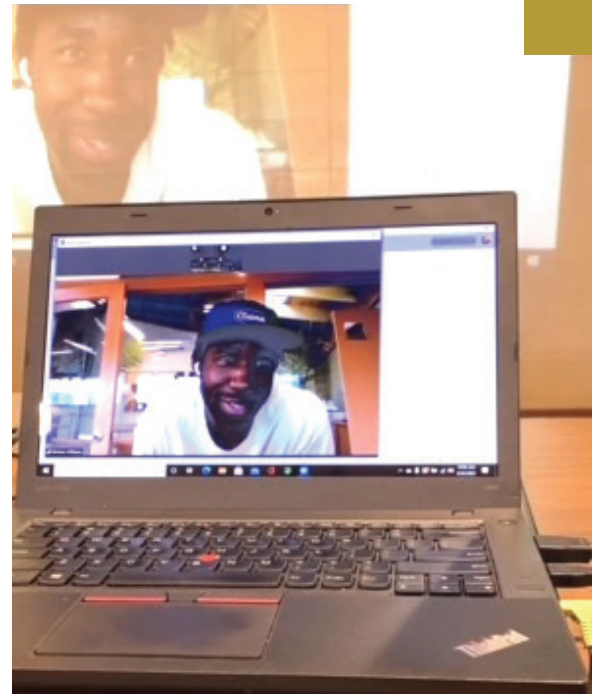
Each participant was assigned a job site mentor to connect with each week. The mentors discussed with participants: job etiquette, job readiness, employment trends, and on the job support.

The 2021 SYEP Mentors were Sis. Paula Collins, Bro. Billy Duncan, Sis. Faye James, Bro. Denzel Lewis, Bro. Marco Marshall, Bro. Erik Parker, Bro. Telvin Tansiel, Dr. Cheryl Taylor, Dr. C.T. Raby, and Sis. Dana Rollins.

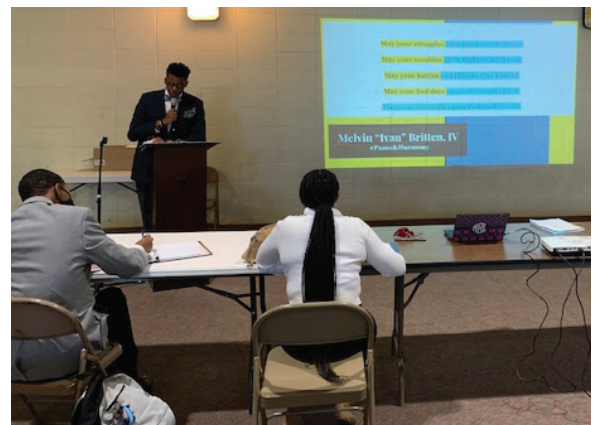
Daily work plans included: Resume and Cover Letters; Online Tours for Job Sites; STEM; Skilled Trade Jobs; Library Visit "Career Department"; Young Entrepreneur Life Style; Community Service Project SMBC - Mondays "Red Beans and Rice Mondays"; Vocational Week; Academic Development; HBCU College Tours; Job Resume Writing; Job Market Surveys Occupational Alignment; Time Management; and a book discussion of "A Paperboy's Fable: The 11 Principles of Success," by Deep Patel.

As a culminating project, SYEP participants researched and created their own business plan for a successful launch of their businesses. They were involved in business development, marketing, and budgets for each others proposed enterprises. Each participant had an opportunity to share their business aspirations as future business owners during the closing program.

Special thanks to the always effective SYEP Committee members: Bro. Sam Culbert, Sis. Rochelle Elie, Sis. Linda Gauthier, Sis. Debra Watson, and Sis. Pat Williams (Chairperson).



Zoom meeting with former SYEP participant (2002-2004) Brandon Williams of Cliama, now a presenter.



Bro. Melvin "Ivan" Britten IV presented Bible Study on Fridays for SYEP.

Continued on next page

2021 SYEP continued



Jarrett Cohen of Jarrett Cohen Realty Investors, discussed investor relations, investments, and the stock market.



Lexi Britt discussed entrepreneurship and business marketing.



Mark Grant, director of CBS Sports, discussed "No Limits on Your Dreams".



From left: Allstate employee Mystique Price and Nayo Z. Andrews, owner of Allstate insurance Agency, discussed auto insurance for teens.



From left, SYEP participants Melvin Ivan Britten, Gabrielle Williams, and Tiler Rollins collaborated on goal setting and job opportunities.



Melvin Britten shared military opportunities and careers.



At left, A'maia Richard was among SYEP participants serving at SMBC Red Beans and Rice Mondays.



Sherie Khadija discussed social justice issues, such as East Baton Rouge Parish incarceration rates and police stops.



SYEP participants are pictured, from left, Tielor Rollins, Gabrielle Williams, and Melvin Ivan Britten IV, during program closing.



SYEP participants are pictured, from left, Kourtnei Hughes, Tielor Rollins, and Caleb Davis.



SPiritUAL MATTERS

The Ps and Qs Of Life

By Sis. Ruby Merrick Williams

One morning after spending some quality time with the Lord, He gave me a revelation regarding the Ps and Qs of life that left me astounded and mesmerized.

He showed me how many worldly Ps we are driven by and the real Ps and Qs we should be pursuing. I never realized how many perplexing Ps have power in our lives. I thought I would share these with you.

We are plagued as a people by promises of perfection, power, prestige, and popularity. These Ps are purported as the things that give our lives value and worth. Possessions, pleasures, prominence, plenty of property, prosperous priorities, and powerful positions are proclaimed as pathways to prolific, profitable, problem free, privileged, productive personas, and perfect lives.

We are pressured and prompted to progress upwardly, by any plan or process necessary. Piling up one's paper and stockpiling possessions symbolize success and is praised by people and the powers that be. Possessions often possess us and pull us into perpetually piling them up as pillars of proof of our performance and productivity to the public. These things permeate our lives and are perpetrated as the paths to pursue.

Pursuing purpose and God's plans are not a priority and often play no part in picking one's path. Paychecks, positions of power, and public prominence drive paths chosen by many people.

Pleasing and pleasuring people are primary Ps and a ploy presented to seek popularity and put one on the path of being perceived as somebody. People-pleasing helps one to be privy to being part of the proud to be a participant pack.

People party and play, pursuing acceptance, pleasures and their passions while avoiding paths that prepare them for purpose and paradise. One may be perceived as popular or productive if his or her performance provides proof of being prominent, having prestige or having plenty of personal purchases of things that propel them to be praised by people, who often have poor perspectives and misplaced priorities.

We have to pay to play in this life or be persecuted by the prevailing powers that be. People without perceived proper Ps, who are poor, underprivileged, and living in poverty and poor conditions are often rejected and perceived as lazy, purposeless, pimps playing the system, or just products of poor choices.

“Yes, we are surrounded by many Ps that drive us. Now the Qs are the questions that we need to ask ourselves. The major question is what Ps are you pursuing?”

Continued on next page

Spiritual Matters continued

They are persecuted, pushed out, shown prejudice, punished, treated punitively, plotted against, left to perish, and treated as if they are poisonous or have the plague. They are pictured and painted as pitiful people, no matter what valuable attributes or characteristics they may possess. They are usually not pursued or perceived as people to be worthy of being around.

Being pretty, pampered, poised, prideful, and physically pumped are prized and promulgated as the Ps needed to pass the physicality test. Having right proportions, perfect bodies, and pricey clothes are proof of a persona that is proven to be perceived as proper, pleasing, and prestigious.

Physical appearance is profoundly important and of course, the dominant culture sets the standard for what perfection looks like. God's perfect creations prefer to pursue a perverted perfection, to preferring and (instead of) accepting the perfectly created persons God created each of us to be.

Promiscuity is a prevalent P and is often painted as pleasure and is promoted as pleasurable to play with and is often promoted as a pleasing path. The alternative P, which is pursuing purity is viewed as a perversion, punished by those who receive preference for being perverted. Perversion is promoted by many as a popular, pleasing path because pleasure is advertised profusely and is a prevalent priority to be pursued at all cost.

Paralyzed by the Ps, P pollution has even infiltrated the proper Ps we should pursue.

Prayer, which is truly a powerful P to align us with God, His Purpose, and His Plan is often only a playbook used to pressure God to present us perfect lives full of the popular Ps, free of pain and problems; lives paved with pleasures, possessions, power, popularity, prestige, prominence, and physical prowess. No regard for prevailing in His presence, accessing His power, or aligning with His will and ways are prevalent or pertinent priorities.

Praise for many people is often only a deposit for the receipt of a desired prized possession or is often performed to receive a promise or potential blessing. Often, people are just sending up praises with the expressed purpose of waiting on blessings to fall down. Exalting the creator is not always the pre-eminent purpose of praise.

Preachers, priests, and prophets have prophesied and proclaimed the path we should pursue to find peace, fulfill purpose, and please God. Prosperity, prestige and performance are not pre-requisites. The Ps that really count purport seeking His presence, finding purpose, and pursuing His plan and path.

The price has already been paid. We have been purchased for a price, paid by the only real and powerful one. He is the propitiation for our sins. He was purposed and prepared to pour out His life and perish for us. We are purified and purged of sin because of His persecution. Pharisees and others plotted and persisted in paralyzing, painfully piercing, and punishing Him. He was prepared to pour out His life and perish for us. He pardoned our sins—past, present, and future—proving perfect love and His powerful passion for us.

The plan to pardon us proved to be perfect and left us with His powerful presence in us to provide, guide, and protect us. What a present!

Yes, we are surrounded by many Ps that drive us. Now the Qs are the questions that we need to ask ourselves. The major question is what Ps are you pursuing? It's okay to pursue some of the worldly Ps if properly prioritized and kept in proper perspective. However, our pre-eminent focus should be on passing up the pretentious P's that only impress mortal people and will pass away.

What does it profit us to do anything for our own pleasure or gain? Seeking His presence more than His presents should be the pre-eminent priority of our lives. The most profitable priority is getting prostrate before Him, persevering in prayer, dwelling in His presence, giving Him full possession of our lives, so that we can operate in the power of His spirit for His glory. Only then, can we practice what He preached and by His power we can draw others, so that people will not perish but have perfect, perpetual life.

Our primary focus should be on picking the Ps that will put us in His presence and resting in the power of His might. We need Ps that will produce fruitful lives, lead to peace, and end in perpetual paradise! Pick the Ps with real power and a promise of His permanent presence!

May peace, power, and His presence, perpetually be with you!

SHILOH IN THE COMMUNITY AND BEYOND



Judge Yvette Mansfield Alexander, Baton Rouge City Court, was sworn in as president of the American Judges Association (AJA) on October 4, 2021.

AJA is the largest independent organization of judges from all jurisdictions and levels of courts throughout

the United States and Canada.

Judge Alexander was sworn in by retired Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson.



Deacon Dennis Blunt, has been named “Lawyer of the Year” in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Blunt, a partner with the law firm of Phelps Dunbar, is an experienced trial litigator having developed a solid reputation for guiding clients through complex legal disputes.

He focuses his practice on commercial litigation, including business torts, products liability, casualty litigation, lender liability and officer and director disputes.



Sis. Whitney Dawn Breaux, Eli Lilly and Company, The Jordy Culotta Show, is one of 14 members of the board of directors of the Woman’s Hospital Foundation. Breaux, a breast cancer survivor, has founded the Day 18 campaign in October of 2020, the increased awareness

of breast cancer as well as the importance of early detection. After a sabbatical, Breaux is also back with co-host Abbigail Alonzo for their unique prospective on football happenings in the Gritiron Show with Whitney Beaux & Abby Alonzo. Sis. Breaux, along with Sis. Tracey Neldare, is featured in Woman’s Hospital advertisements as a breast cancer survivor.



Sis. Victoria Clark is a print journalist for *Relative Humanity*. Clark is a recent graduate from Xavier University of Louisiana, with a major in Mass Communication and minor in Creative Writing. Writing became her passion in middle school when her best friend introduced her to

creating poetry. She has not stopped writing since. After graduation, Victoria plans to continue her writing about the plight of the Black community whether through other outlets or her own blog: “Identity Black Woman.”



Sis. Maxine Cormier has been honored for her 50 years of service by the Baton Rouge Sigma Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Cormier is a governmental and legislative lobbyist and business development consultant with nearly 30 years of experience in the industry.

She was joined by other honorees Lois Brew and Freddie Johnson.



Bro. Brace “Trey” Godfrey was named senior vice president of policy for the Baton Rouge Area Chamber in May of this year. Godfrey has been executive director of 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge for the past three years. At BRAC, he will lead initiatives to make metro Baton

Rouge more competitive for business growth and talent development, through public policy and governmental affairs activity. He will also help build coalitions to achieve BRAC’s goals of improving education, workforce, transportation, entrepreneurship, and quality of place.



Sis. Nikki Godfrey, Ph.D., has been named manager of Emergent Method of Baton Rouge, where she is responsible for leading and supporting various client engagements that leverage her significant communication and leadership expertise. For more than 20 years, Sis. Godfrey has built a reputation

as a respected and accomplished leader in both the public and private sectors. She was previously assistant commissioner for public affairs for the Louisiana Board of Regents and was the director of promotions and event management at LSU. She formerly worked at ESPN for 11 years as a member of the diversity recruiting task force and led the production of major NCAA and professional sporting events and ceremonies.

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SHILOH IN THE COMMUNITY AND BEYOND



Sis. Jacqueline Nash Grant, clinical professor at SULC, was recently appointed to the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund Board of Directors. The Board provides funds for non-profit and public agencies throughout the state for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The appointment was made by Gov. John Bel Edwards.



Sis. Cathy Gray (pictured in white shirt standing in first row, third from left) was among the team of Baton Rouge Homies/Classmates in the 2nd Ward Class of 1971, who helped serve 300 homemade "Black Bean" hamburgers for lunch to persons adversely affected by Hurricane Ida. The group also gave away almost 50 \$25 gift cards to residents of Edgard, Wallace, and Lucy, Louisiana.



Mark Grant, husband of Sis. Joyce Grant, was one of four alumni inducted into the 2021 LSU Hall of Distinction. Grant is a TV director for CBS Sports and CBS Sports Network. LSU annually

recognized alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers, personal and civic accomplishments, volunteer activities, and loyalty to their alma mater. Pictured at the recent induction ceremonies are from left Marcy Grant, Sis. Grant, and Mark Grant.

Bro. Jerrell R. Gray, former organist with Shiloh's Music Ministry, left Baton Rouge in June to take a teaching position in Charleston, South Carolina.

"What a time I had at my going away party, June 26!," Gray wrote in a Facebook post. "So much love and fun that I'll always cherish! Thank you to everyone that sent cards and gifts! Thank you to everyone who took time to celebrate with me!"

Sisters Karen Breaux and Peggy Williams facilitating Gray's going-away event, which drew many well-wishers among Shiloh members and friends. Gray had been part of Shiloh's Music Ministry for more than six year.

Gray continues his outstanding role as a musician and composer, with his role as educator. The Cincinnati Song Initiative, in partnership with The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Inaugural Composer Mentorship Program, recently commissioned his composition, "The Soul of America."

The song was composed to not only pay homage to the memory and legacy of the late Rep. John R. Lewis, but to also revive the love and hope of America through song. The composition text, thoughtfully adapted from the last words of Rep. Lewis, sheds light on the journey of the Civil Rights activist.

Lewis, a longtime Georgia lawmaker, wrote that he was "inspired" during his final days by the ongoing protests sweeping the nation against racial injustice and police brutality, following the killing of George Floyd on May 25.

When he read Rep. Lewis' last words, Gray said he immediately felt an urge to compose "The Soul of America."



From left: Minister Patsy Wilkerson, Bro. Jerrell Gray, and Sis. Tara Allen.



Seated from left: Sisters Patricia Williams, Rochelle Elie, Peggy Williams, Karen Breaaux, and Stephanie Lockett, and Hilda Trenise Gautier; Back row from left: Sis. Cathy Gray, Bro. Jerrell Gray, Sis. Maria Foster, Jeremy Rochelle, Bro. Nick Lockett, and Sis. Brittany Jackson.

SHILOH IN THE COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

The Rev. Michael Mallet, a son of Shiloh and pastor of Greater Beulah Baptist Church, was featured in *The Advocate* column, "Faith Matters," on July 2021. Mallet recounted his reluctance to answer the call to the ministry.



Bro. Durand "Rudy" Macklin has been inducted into the Kentucky High School Basketball Hall of Fame in Elizabethtown. Macklin, a former professional basketball player with the Atlanta Hawks, is currently the executive director of the Louisiana Bureau of Minority Health Access and Promotions and the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.



Bro. Tramelle Neldare has received the 2021 Superior Service Award for outstanding contributions and sustained concern for the activities of the Lambda Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



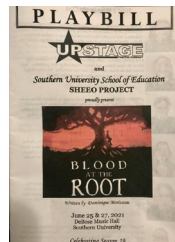
Sis. Alexis Lawrence, daughter of Bro. Quintillis and Sis. Brandi Little Lawrence and granddaughter of Sis. Julie Wessinger, was named top fifth grade student of St. Luke's Episcopal School in 2021. Despite the hardships imposed by the pandemic, Alexis stayed focused and had straight A's. She entered middle school this year at the school.



Sis. Kyla Pitcher, Ph.D., was appointed by President Andrew Hugine, Jr., in June 2021 to serve as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs at Alabama A&M University. Sis. Pitcher is a passionate advocate of student development and has invested nearly 15 years in Higher Education. Some areas currently under her purview are Enrollment Management (Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar), Residential Life and Housing, Judicial Affairs, Veterans Affairs and Disability Services, and Community College Relations and Global Initiatives, to name a few. Prior to this appointment, she served as Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. Pitcher relocated to Huntsville, Alabama in the Spring of 2012 to join the Alabama A & M University Music Faculty and to direct the Honors Program.



Sis. Alexandria Turner has been named 2021-22 "Teacher of the Year" at the East Baton Rouge Virtual Academy (EBRVA). Sis. Turner is a Shiloh Scholarship recipient, Roberta Payne Educational Scholarship recipient, and a 2017 Southern University cum laude graduate. She is humbled and honored for the nomination by her peers as she enters her fourth year with the EBR Parish School System. Sis. Turner loves teaching and enjoys finding new and exciting ways to keep her students engaged and eager to learn.



Sis. Ava Turner, Ph.D., and **Bro. Johnny Jones** were among the stellar cast of "Blood at the Root," a drama inspired by the 2006 Jena Six case, in Louisiana. Upstage Theatre's 19th season opened with the regional premiere of the play held at the Debose Music Hall on the Southern University campus. Pastor Fred Jeff Smith stated, "The presentation was excellent. So blessed to have such talent as a part of the Shiloh family!"

Bro. Terrance Turner is executive producer of "Friday Night Flows," the new local TV show hosted by Baton Rouge rapper Johnny Hustle, as known as Eatem. The half-hour show airs on the Friday night Madd Game Entertainment series at 10 p.m. on WBTR, Channel 36 (cable Channel 19). The new series is the fifth show for local production company Madd Game, which operates from studios at 1713 Wooddale Blvd.



Pastor Fred Jeff Smith was a participant in the April 6 event celebrating the refurbished MLK statue in downtown Baton Rouge. The memorial, a 1,200-pound contemporary sculpture installed on the River Center Plaza downtown in 1997, was restored inside and out with more than \$70,000 raised through the efforts of collaborators, including the city-parish government, the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, and the Downtown Development District. The 21-foot-high art piece was created by the late Arthur Silverman.

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SHILOH IN THE COMMUNITY AND BEYOND



From left, WCGBR President Shau-na Wolf-Augustus; 2021 Silver Magnolia Min. Patsy Wilkerson, and Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome.

Min. Patsy Wilkerson was honored as a 2021 Silver Magnolia by the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge.

Since 2004, the WCGBR's Silver Magnolia Award Honors Distinguished Women Trailblazing in the Baton Rouge area. Min. Wilkerson was one of eight honorees this year that the council celebrated for their contributions to the community.

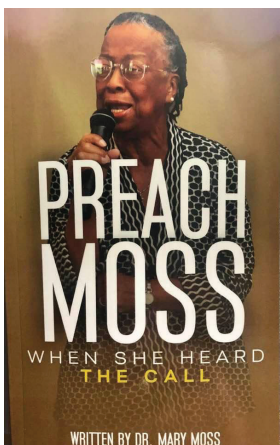
Shiloh members know Min. Wilkerson in her role as the church's beloved Minister of Comfort and Care. Additionally, she has spent the last 30 years in various locations around the country training and facilitating workshops, conferences, and retreats for business and Christian organizations. Min. Wilkerson specializes in Inclusion (Diversity) Training, Leadership Development, Teambuilding, Succession Planning, and Strategic Planning. She is a training consultant with the Foster Care Parent Program for the Department of Children and Families Services. Additionally, Min. Wilkerson is founder of The Destiny Group -- a mentoring organization designed to help women fulfill their life's mission, potential, and purpose - as they "do Life together."

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership from the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (BIOLA). Min. Wilkerson is a graduate of Southeast Regional Bible Institute of Beeson Theological Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome was present to honor Wilkerson and the other "incredible women" recognized as the latest Silver Magnolias. "We consider them as movers and shakers in the community and problem solvers in our community," Mayor Broome said.

She also acknowledged that these women "Set the bar high" for others who come behind them.

"Thanks for laying a great foundation...and we are truly thankful for each one of you," the Mayor-President said.



Pastor Mary Whitley Moss, Ph.D., the first female pastor installed in the Fourth District Missionary Baptist Association at St. Alma Baptist Church in Lakeland, Louisiana, has published her first book titled, "Preach Moss: When She Heard the Call." Contributing writer to *The Advocate* Terry Robinson wrote in Faith Matters: Pastor Mary Moss shares preaching journey in a new book.

The book recounts Moss' journey from her initial call as a youth in Watson to becoming a nationally sought preacher and teacher.

According to the column, which appeared on September 10, Moss writes: "I first heard 'Preach Moss' from the voice of God announcing His call to preach the Gospel."

"Preach Moss" became conformation of her calling every time she would hear someone from the audience holler out, 'Preach Moss.'

She, who earned a Ph.D. in ministry, answered the call to ministry years later as a member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. Charles T. Smith, who Moss stated had a reputation as being a "hard taskmaster."

Smith gave Moss his support and helped her prepare for her first sermon in August of 1991.

Shiloh's current leader, Pastor Fred Jeff Smith, and other members of the church endorse this book and invited others to read it.

Please send your information and photo to let us share what you--as a Shiloh member--are doing "In the Community and Beyond." You should send the submission via email to the Associate Editor: jturner@shilohmbc.com or to the Editor, rachele11@att.net. THE SHIELD will feature you in the next issue.

Shiloh C.A.R.E.S.

Congregational Assistance and Response to Emergency Situations

Submitted by Minister Patsy Wilkerson

"I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:35-36 (Msg.)

The scripture teaches us to care for our sisters and brothers who are in need. Shiloh C.A.R.E.S. was created to do exactly what Jesus taught.

The pandemic has created a season of confinement, isolation, and loneliness for many of our members. In response to COVID 19, and the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, several ministries have partnered to launch Shiloh C.A.R.E.S.

Partnering with Shiloh's Charitable Foundation, Comfort and Care Ministry, and the Sisterhood Ministry, Shiloh C.A.R.E.S. has been created. The acronym stands for Congregational Assistance in Response to Emergency Situations.

We are blessed to have 16 members of the congregation who have volunteered to call other members for what the Rev. Jennifer Jones calls, a "wellness check." We want our members to know that Pastor Fred Jeff Smith and the congregation cares about their well-being. The goal is to determine if the Church can provide assistance or meet a need for them.

The program is designed to reach out and touch as many members as possible during this difficult time. In addition to a brief conversation with members on the call, the volunteers are praying with and for members if they desire.

Here are a few quotes from those who are being blessed by calling our wonderful members:

"I'm so impressed by how tech savvy our elderly members are. They enthusiastically fellowship with Shiloh via YouTube, and Facebook, but are also enthusiastically looking forward to our return to in person service."

--Sis. Julie

Wessinger

"I thank God for being able to serve. The seniors I have spoken to with are grateful and happy to hear from the church. Some said they miss the "in service" fellowship and others said that they are pleased the way Pastor has orchestrated the services during this pandemic and the continuous prayer is appreciated."

--Sis. Bernice Carter

"It was such a rewarding experience to contact Shiloh's 80-year-old seniors. Some of them were so kind and delighted to share spiritual words of wisdom with me. They were pleasantly surprised

and very excited to hear from someone calling on behalf of Pastor Smith. Many of our members are participating in weekly Sunday service, Bible study, and prayer meetings. Several of the members check on each other periodically. They enjoyed the contact tremendously and expressed a desire to see this ministry continue to serve in this capacity."

--Sis. Lydia Williams

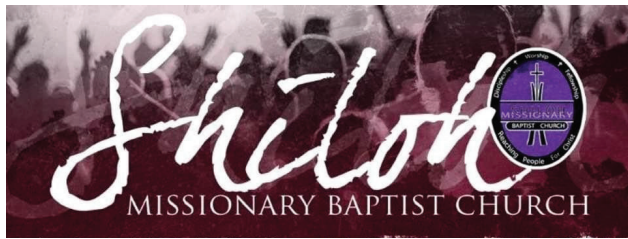
"It was such a joy to speak with Shiloh's 80-year-old seniors! They were overjoyed to hear from Shiloh. They are enjoying church through livestream and feel spiritually uplifted. Knowing that Shiloh cares means so much to them, but they will be happy when we can return to church."

-- Sis. Myrtis Piper

"Our seniors are tech savvy, up to date on what's happening in the world (especially with immunizations), surviving and thriving, prayerful, strong, uplifting, encouraging, inspiring, and a delight to talk with. However, they miss the fellowship. The surprising phenomenon is how enriching they are making my life."

-- Sis. Jill Wells





Radio Ministry
WXOK (1460 AM), Sundays at 2 p.m.

Television Ministry
“A Time of Harvest” - WBRL (CW21), Sundays at 10 a.m.
“A Closer Look” - WBRL (CW21), Sundays at 6 p.m.

Subscribe to the “Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church” Channel
In-Worship WiFi: shilohwifi

Join us on Facebook and YouTube.

Live Stream our Worship Experience at
www.vimeo.com/shilohbr

Weekly podcast: The THRIVE.
Available on the podcast app
(Apple) and the Google play music app (androids).

Shiloh BAPTIST EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

DEVELOPING A BRIGHTER FUTURE!

With a Christian Curriculum, Shiloh Early Learning Academy will provide a center that will prepare your child/children for the challenges he or she will face as they grow and become successful individuals.

Your child will be treated with love and respect. They will be taught to interact with other children in play and learning time. Shiloh Early Learning Academy wants to be a facility your child enjoys coming to each and every morning and more importantly a place you as parents feel good about as well.

*PB&J live web cameras

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SHILOHLEARNINGACADEMY.COM

*Faith makes all things possible,
Hope makes all things work,
Love makes all things beautiful.*

*May you have all the three
for this Christmas!*

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**