

# *The Shield*



WINTER/SPRING 2026

A PUBLICATION OF SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**"Renewal" is Rediscovering  
the Soul of the Church**

**Evangelistic in Purpose  
Disciplined in Formation  
Courageous in Justice**

**ROAD TO RENEWAL**

**We can only grow stronger  
spiritually as we commit  
ourselves to Prayer,  
Christian Education,  
Worship, Evangelism and  
Holistic Ministry.**

This issue of The Shield highlights the 2026 celebration of Shiloh's Black History Month through its reporting on special programs by church auxiliaries/organizations, including our choirs' singing of hymns and songs of the Black Church, hosting of Heritage's annual musical, and the wearing of Afro-centric attire during worship services.

Readers will enjoy the Pastor's Column on what must be done after experiencing the annual "On the Road to Renewal;" features, such as Shiloh's members who are military veterans, the work of our Food Ministry, the 2025 Angel Tree Project, and *much more*. We believe what is shared will not only enlighten, but also remind readers of God's grace and faithfulness and of Shiloh's contributions to local, state, and national communities.

---

The Shield enters its 47th year of publication. The late Pastor Charles T. Smith approved the idea for a church newsletter presented to him by the late Sis. Ann Forbes. When Sis. Forbes' job required her to relocate from Baton Rouge to New Orleans, Sis. Lois Fuller recalls I was named The Shield's editor.

Our newsletter began as a monthly publication. It was typed, designed, laid out, and mimeographed on light brown 8.5 x 14" sheets of paper. The cover was designed and printed by Wallace Commercial Printing of Baton Rouge.

The Shield included From the Pastor's Desk—a column by the late Pastor Charles T. Smith, and articles written by the staff and submitted by other church members. A unique column announcing the opening of Louisiana's hunting and fishing season was submitted annually by Bro. Clyde Freeman.

Sisters Rochelle Ellie, Soncere Smith Clark, Catherel Barber, and others gathered each Saturday before the first Sunday in the church office to print the publication using a mimeograph machine. We folded and stapled each sheet into the 8.5 x 7" publication. The Shield soon included artwork and black-and-white photos collected by its staff, as well.

When I relocated to Austin, Texas, for graduate school, in 1995, the late Sis. Leola Anderson, was named editor. She served on the newsletter's staff for many years. Sis. Anderson passed away in 2014. Sis. Gloria Arvie and Sis. Martha Taylor were named The Shield's coeditors. Sis. Taylor created an 8.5 x 11" publication with a newly designed masthead.

It has been a pleasure for me to serve as editor following Sis. Arvie's passing in 2002. When Sis. Taylor retired in December 2013, I began layout of The Shield with the current masthead and full-color design. See below the now 27-member staff. We cannot have a newsletter without the cooperation of these individuals and other contributors, who volunteer their time and effort to the publication. New staff members are always welcome!

---

Currently, we are seeking to obtain at least two full sets of The Shield to be filed in the Walter C. Dumas Library. We ask readers to contribute copies of the newsletter for this effort. Place the copies in The Shield's mailbox, which is located in the church office. Thank you for your cooperation.

---

### **Pastor**

The Rev. Fred Jeff Smith

### **Editor**

Sis. Rachel L. Emanuel

### **Associate Editor**

The Rev. Demetria Jones Smith

### **Assistant Editors**

Sis. Joan Turner

Sis. Leslie Vincent

### **Staff Assistants**

Sis. Lois Fuller

Sis. Alexandria Turner

### **Columnists**

The Rev. Jennifer Jones

Min. Patsy Wilkerson

Sis. Ruby Williams

### **Staff Reporters**

Sis. Cleo Joffrion Allen

Sis. Cathy Gray

Sis. Rochelle Elie

Bro. Aaron Jackson

Sis. Lawryn Owens

Sis. Jackie Williams

### **Staff Poet**

Sis. Lynn Gobert

### **Photographers**

Sis. Sheila Allen

Bro. Jeremiah Owens

Bro. Alex Scott

Sis. Debbra Watson

Bro. Terrance Turner

### **Contributors**

Bro. Alvin Cavalier

Bro. Samuel Culbert

Sis. Ashley Morgan

Sis. Earline Pembrick

Sis. Julie Wessinger



**The Shield** is published several times a year by the members of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church as a source of Christian outreach, witness, and communication.

---



NOW ENROLLING

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.



185 EDDIE ROBINSON, SR. DRIVE  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802  
CONTACT: (225) 343-0640  
SHILOHLEARNINGACADEMY.COM

**SHILOH SUMMER CAMP 2026 ENROLLMENT PERIOD IS OPEN!!**



**Summer Camp 2026**  
**May 26<sup>th</sup> - July 24<sup>th</sup>**



SHILOH MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH

— SAVE THE DATE —

5TH BIENNIAL  
CHRISTMAS GALA

*Rooted in Faith. Rising in Purpose.*

— CELEBRATING THE —


*Light of the World*

Sunday, December 6, 2026

Renaissance Hotel – Baton Rouge

— 6:00 P.M. —

TICKET COST: \$100 PER PERSON



First 100 Tickets Sold  
will be entered into a Drawing  
for One-Night Hotel Stay  
and Dinner for Two